Committee appointed by Government
to enquire into Rasai, Lapo and Chher in Sind.

Vols. 3-4

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Volume III.

Part III. Evidence recorded for the Larkana District.

Part IV. Evidence recorded for the Hyderabad District.

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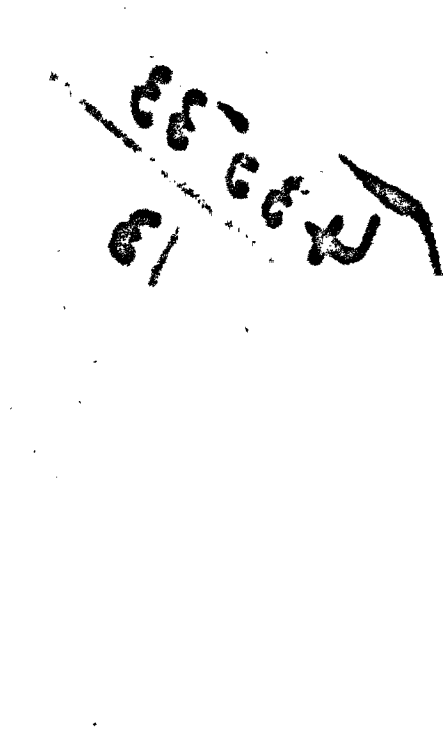

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Part III.

Evidence recorded by the Committee at Larkana for the Larkana District. Pages 1 to 206.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. BOLUS.

1. Name. — 1. E. J. Bolus.

2. Appointment. — 2. Acting Collector of Larkana.

3. Head-quarters. — 3. Larkana.

4. Length of service — 4. 14½ years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 2½ years.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour ? — 6. Larkana District.

7. What is the period of your tour ? — 7. 125 days, excluding any day spent at head-quarters.

8. What private servants accompany you on tour ? — 8. Butler, cook, second boy, ayah (for part of the season), dhobi, 2 syces, bhisti, sweeper.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ? — 9. Daftardar, head munshi, sheristedar, and 4 munshis.

The Collector's inspection staff (4 munshis) and the registration clerk visit the taluka towns.

Havaldar, one naik, 4 peons and one khalasi. Office—6 peons.

10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ? — 10. (i) All ordinary grocery.

(ii) My servants obtain all supplies at the camps.

(iii) The Daftardar takes his own supplies of grain etc. from head-quarters. The other members of the establishment obtain their supplies at the various camps.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ? — 11. (i) Chickens, eggs, milk, grass, firewood, mutton.

(ii) & (iii) Flour, rice, ghee, milk, dal, vegetables, mutton, spice, fire-wood, sugar, salt.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ? — 12. (i) Chairs, carpets, tables, beds, crockery and other household requisites.

(ii) Chairs, carpets, tables, boxes.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ? — 13. A few cots and water jars are borrowed by my servants and munshis at each camp.

14. What tents do you take on tour ? — 14. One dining tent, office tent, sleeping tent, 5 raotis.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ? — 15. (i) Servants' quarters at bungalows. Also raotis.

(ii) Raotis. The inspection office munshis usually stay with the munshis.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ?

16. Stables are attached to the bungalows. Where I am in tents, 'landhis' are erected for the horses.

17. What records do you take on tour ?

17. Generally 2 years' vernacular records. Also a few books of reference from the Collector's library.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ?

18. My office is held either in a room of the bungalow or in an office tent.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ?

19. When tents are to be pitched, about 20 men are required for some 2 hours, and again when tents are removed. At other times 5 or 6 men.

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ?

20. Practically all the roads are kacha. The main roads are kept in fairly good condition.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?

21. The Taluka Local Boards are responsible. The work is effected by means of beldars. This establishment is subordinate to the Vice President of the Taluka Local Board.

22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ?

22. Sometimes special repairs of this kind are made, but not on my requisition. Such repairs are carried out by the beldars. Occasionally the zamindar is asked to assist with his men.

23. What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters ?

23. Camels are my means of transport. These are engaged at head-quarters for the whole period of the tour.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?

24. The post is brought by a peon. Occasionally the Mukhtyarkar is asked to arrange.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ?

25. The usual camping places consist of the 11 taluka head-quarter towns, and an average of 3 or 4 large villages in each taluka.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?

26. The Mukhtyarkar is in charge of the camping ground. When a camp is expected, the ground is cleared and swept by the beldars or by the zamindars' men. These camping grounds are seldom occupied by me, since ordinarily I use the bungalows.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ?

27. The great majority of the camping grounds are within practical reach of such villages. Some of the villages have only one or two shops, of the poorest description.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?

28. There are Local Fund gardens at Johi, Mehar, Warah and Dokri. Ratodero has a municipal garden.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ?

29. There are bungalows at all the taluka towns, and also along the banks of the main canals. On an average there are 3 or 4 bungalows in each taluka.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?

30. A chowkidar is maintained at each bungalow. If a garden is attached, there is also a malhi.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?

31. 'Rasai,' derived from the verb رسيڻ denotes access or entrance. In Sind. the word is used *in malam partem* to denote a system of giving supplies either gratis or at reduced rates.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?

32. My average daily requirements are as follows :—1 chicken, 1 dozen eggs, 2 seers milk, 1 seer meat or fish, ½ to 1 maund of firewood, 20 lbs grass and palal.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?

33. So far as I can ascertain, the requirements vary considerably according to the individual. I am unable to give definite figures.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or, jowari stalks and firewood ?

34. Average prices are approximately :—

Rice 4 to 6 seers per rupee.
Wheat 5 seers per rupee.
Eggs 5 or 6 annas per dozen.
Fowls 6 to 10 annas.
Butter 5 or 6 annas per lb.

There is no fixed rate for bajri or jowari stalks. In the larger centres, where there is a recognised rate for fire-wood, this ranges from 5 to 8 annas per maund.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?

35. The articles mentioned have no market value outside the larger villages and towns.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?

36. My average daily requirements cost from Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 2.

The supplies needed by my private servants cost from 6 annas to 10 annas per head. A similar estimate applies to peons.

Supplies to munshis probably cost from 8 to 12 annas per head.

In some cases the men mess together in groups of 2 or 3, and thus live cheaper.

37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

37. The supplies are collected and brought to camp partly by the tapedar and his kotar, partly by the local zamindar and his men.

38. How are they paid for ?

38. Bills are presented, and receipts given on payment.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?

39. There can be no such guarantee. I always pay my own bill personally. Zamindars, even where nominally contracting for a camp, are seldom willing to appear with the bill. In their absence, the amount has to be paid to the tapedar.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

40. Actual payments are about the same as estimated cost, but some of the payments are only dummy transactions.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

41. If there is an excess, it is borne eventually by the zamindars. The Banias suffer no loss.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

42. There is a rasai fund maintained in each taluka by the tapedars. This fund meets various expenditure incurred in connexion with camps.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

43. No.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

44. I get potatoes, brinjals and some other vegetables from taluka town bazaars. These are supplemented by dhalis, which often contain vegetables.

45. I hardly think my private establishment could be reduced, save with detriment to health and a loss of mobility. A Collector must keep horses.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

It might be practicable to reduce the official establishment on tour. The tour of the Daftardar, the Collector's sheristedar and head munshi might well be confined to the taluka towns; the Collector taking with him only two munshi to the smaller places. I consider it desirable that no munshi on a lower pay than Rs 25 should be allowed to go on tour; and that the touring munshis should be changed fairly frequently. At the same time it is important that the Collector should have full discretion to encamp wherever he pleases. The suggested arrangement would not be possible in the case of Assistant or Deputy Collectors holding charge of Sub-divisions. The main difficulty here is in regard to criminal cases. Moreover the Sub-Divisional Officer has a much smaller area in which to tour than the Collector, and is bound to spend more time at the small villages.

46. The length of the Collector's touring season might be reduced to 100 days spent outside District headquarters. The occasions upon which a Collector is unavoidably compelled to return to head-quarters in the touring season are growing more and more numerous.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

The tour required from Assistant and Deputy Collectors should, I suggest, similarly be shortened to 125 days. At present, the last 5 or 6 weeks of their tour, after all inspection work is over, has not much practical value.

47. The rules of 1914 have not brought about any radical change in the system. Although zamindars have usually consented to become contractors for supplies, the actual arrangements are still almost universally in the hands of the tapedars.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

The main reason is that the zamindar, having already paid his lapo, does not consider it fair that he should be called upon to undertake a fresh burden in the form of rasai. Lapo is a general exaction, whereas contracting is a burden on the individual. Moreover most zamindars consider it not in accordance with their dignity to play the part of providers.

48. I am of opinion that the rules of 1914 cannot be effectually worked until lapo is abolished. Probably every zamindar would be perfectly ready to provide fowls, eggs and similar articles at equitable rates to officers and their establishments, if he were not called upon for illegal payments, and for forced hospitality not only to Government servants but also to others.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

The system of independent contractors might be possible, but it is unlikely that any man would accept one contract for a whole taluka or a division. The most that could be looked for is a contractor in each taluka town and each large village. I doubt if there would be much competition for these appointments. It might be necessary for Government to subsidize such contractors by means of seris, to be paid for by a slight reduction of travelling allowance.

49. The earliest possible intimation regarding my camps is always sent to contractors and zamindars through the Mukhtyarkars. It is not practicable to state in advance the exact requirements for each camp. But these are usually well known.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

50. A copy of a local order issued by me is appended.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.

51. Mukhtyarkars and some zamindars give me dhalis, and sometimes zamindars make presents of game or sheep.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. The average cost of a dhali is from Re. 1 to Rs. 5. The value of a sheep (dumba) is Rs. 4 or Rs. 5.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. Gifts of trifling value are allowed. Dumbas are not accepted save from big zamindars of good repute. It is well-known which zamindars are traditionally allowed to offer dumbas. Sometimes it is difficult to carry out the orders on the subject, and presents of more substantial value have to be returned to those who offer them.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Lapo was originally a gratuity paid to harvesters. It now signifies an illegal exaction in money, made by the tapedar from the zamindar.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

55 & 56. There is only one true form of lapo. Payments levied by the subordinates of the Public Works Department, the Police, Forest and other Departments are not properly described as lapo, since they are not charges based on the fact of holding land, or fixed in proportion to the area held. Rasai is made an excuse for the levy of lapo. The tapedar pleads that he has to bear the expenses of officers' camps. He also offers to obtain favours for the zamindars in connexion with his lands.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. The original rate was one anna per rupee of land-revenue. The present rate of lapo is believed to be not uniform. In the case of small holdings it is commonly 3 to 5 annas per acre. But the bigger zamindars usually compound for a lump sum at a reduced rate. Some of the most important zamindars refuse to pay lapo.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai fund'?

58. Out of the lapo collected about a third goes into the pockets of the tapedars themselves. The remainder is used in making presents and giving hospitality to munshis on the establishments of the Collector, Assistant and Deputy Collectors, and to their private servants, and also to other visitors.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?

59. The Rasai Fund is managed by the tapedar or the supervising tapedar of the head-quarters tapa. Sometimes one or two other tapedars are appointed as auditors of the fund.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund?

60. About a third of the lapo is used for such money presents. At the time of jamabandi most of the munshis receive substantial presents, but some of the better-paid men decline them. In some instances the amount given is said to be one month's pay. Peons get small tips from the fund.

Private servants of officials also get money from the fund. I may mention that I was obliged to dismiss my butler on this ground.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. The zamindars are unduly afraid of tapedars. It is true that the tapedar is able to render service or disservice in connexion with such matters as partal, khasmokal and remokal cultivation. The zamindar prefers to bribe him rather than to rely for justice on superior authority. In the matter of irrigation, daroghas levy money from the zamindars on account of sluices; but this is not strictly lapo. Nor can exactions of the Police and Forest subordinates be classed under this head.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. The answer is indicated by the fact of the money payments above mentioned.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. The rules of 1914 have slightly mitigated the rigours of lapo. The spread of education contributes to the same effect.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. (1) The proposed substantial increase in the pay and prospects of tapedars and supervisors should attract a better class of man for these posts. At present a tapedar finds it very difficult to live on his pay. He has to keep a horse and to live more or less in Amil style.

(2) I think it should be clearly and definitely announced that lapo must cease and that after a given date any zamindar found paying lapo will be for ever debarred from any fresh grant of land or any favour from Government or from Government officials. It would probably also be necessary to prosecute a few tapedars before the offence could be stamped out. If these measures are accompanied by a determination on the part of officers, especially the Mukhtyarkars, to suppress lapo, success is assured. *Pari Passu* we must endeavour to get rid of rasai, though it is not quite true to say that the existence of lapo entirely depends on rasai.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66 Chher denotes a system under which the cultivators, in return for land, loans, gifts of seed, and other favours, give their labour free to the zamindar for certain recognised purposes.

67. Who are the "Chheras"?

67. The chheras are the tenants of the zamindar land-lord.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. They are required to fetch supplies, to act as beaters for game, to assist at breaches, to build bunds, and to do miscellaneous work required by their zamindar. They are not very dissimilar in status from feudal serfs.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. These conditions are implied. Sometimes they are actually incorporated in written agreements between the parties.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?

70. If employed for camps, they are fed by the zamindars for the days on which they actually serve. No money is paid them by the zamindars. They sometimes receive 'bakshish' from Government officials.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Such labour is hardly available except in some taluka towns.

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Beldars are maintained by Local Funds in all the talukas.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. Except under the Irrigation Act, zamindars are not to bound provide labour. But they cheerfully do so, and seldom count it a hardship.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. There are a few small grants on such tenure. But Sind has nothing corresponding to the Maharki Watans of the Deccan.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. Labour is needed for occasionally pitching tents, for loading and unloading camels and for errands and messages.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. About 4 or 5 are required.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. About 15 to 20.

78. Whence do you obtain them ?

78. From the zamindar. There is usually no other source.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?

79. I do not pay them as a rule, except for special services. The zamindars object to these payments. The zamindars, as already stated, give the men food.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?

80. Such labour is practically unobtainable.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?

81. The course suggested would, I think, only aggravate the Rasai evil.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?

82. The zamindar, who issues the invitation to shoot, supplies beaters.

83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ?

83. About Rs. 3 for an evening's shoot. Difficulty is always experienced in making the men accept payment. I usually force them to take it. Sometimes if both the zamindar and his men show a very strong objection, I consider it best not to pay.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?

84. Probably the zamindars feed them, and would feel hurt if one enquired.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

85. Sometimes the help of the chher is needed for road repairs ; but only in an emergency, and not necessarily on account of officials.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ?

86 It is to the interest of zamindars to help to keep their roads in good condition, Sometimes haris are employed as temporary beldars, and paid accordingly.

87 What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

87. The zamindar has to produce his chher to close the breaches;

88 Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

88 The labourers are paid at the usual rates.

89 How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

89. Interference with cultivation is practically nil. It cannot be said that any appreciable loss is caused.

90 How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?

90. It may interfere to some slight extent.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommended to be passed by Government ?

92. I think it is unnecessary to interfere with the existing system of chher.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. BOLUS.

To the Chairman.

It requires about 10 men to pitch a 16 foot single pole tent.

When the Mukhtiarkar arranges for the post, he arranges through his peon or kotars. The kotars generally have ponies.

Seris are free grants of lands.

Sometimes officers send for beaters from zamindars and sometimes they are invited for shooting by the zamindars.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.

I consider it desirable to stop rasai as it now exists. Probably it would be desirable to eliminate both tapedars and zamindars from it. The tapedars make rasai an excuse for levying lapo from the zamindars. It is proved to be merely a pretext by the fact that they collect much more for rasai than is necessary. If rasai ceases probably they would be paid less by way of lapo. The zamindar now pays lapo quite apart from rasai in order to secure favours from the tapedars and to avoid disfavours. Rasai is only one of the elements of lapo. You can't lay the whole blame on rasai.

The Mukhtiarkars could stop lapo to a great degree if they would. I don't think it fair to say that all Mukhtiarkars encourage the levy of lapo; they may connive at it and in this respect there is a great difference between different Mukhtiarkars. I have heard of cases where pressure has been brought to bear on zamindars to pay lapo by the Mukhtiarkars. But I think such cases are rare. I presume the interference of Mukhtiarkars is due to the fact that they have to make rasai.

I don't think that Mukhtiarkars stand a better chance of promotions if they make good rasai. I think the average Mukhtiarkar feels he had better support the traditional system.

It might be possible in respect of certain camps to have a system by which supplies could be obtained without the interference or intervention of zamindars and tapedars, but it would not be possible for all camps. Generally speaking it would be possible in big but not in small villages. I don't think small villages should be absolutely excluded from tour but they are rightly avoided as far as possible during touring.

There are 2 reasons against visiting them only by riding from large villages *viz.* (1) that the Collector will have no time to spare for this from his office work; (2) the Collector finds out many more things by camping at the small villages than he would by a visit of an hour or so. This applies still more to the Assistant Collector. Complaints of various petty tyrannies would not otherwise come to light. People having those complaints would not be willing to come 10 or 20 miles' distance but they would complain if the camp of the officer was near their village. I find such cases quite frequent. The practice of officers varies. My own is to receive complaints at any time of the day. Some officers call them in the evening. I have also a fixed time to receive petitions in addition to taking them when the petitioners come.

The private traveller would not get supplies from small villages apart from the zamindars. If a pleader encamps in such villages he gets supplies from the zamindars or from munshis who in turn get them from zamindars.

I encamp as a general rule at 3 or 4 big villages on an average in each taluka besides the taluka head-quarters. Even in these big villages there would be great difficulty in getting fresh supplies, *e.g.*, eggs and fowls, without the help of the zamindars. I don't think that haris bring fowls and eggs for sale in big villages to any great extent. I don't remember to have seen any body selling and buying such things. Any body visiting these small villages would suffer the same inconveniences as the touring officials.

I think it would be practicable for a contractor, if he went far enough, to collect supplies in advance. Under the present system rasai is made even in big villages by the tapedars—but in big villages more is bought direct from the bania.

I fancy that munshis some times buy their supplies direct from the bania. Sometimes the tapedars buy for them.

I think it might be possible to find a bania to travel with the Collector's camp but he would probably have to be subsidised. He would have to keep camels and carts to take supplies with himself.

I think in taluka towns a certain amount of supplies is purchased and paid for direct by the munshis—but I can't say how much. I have not officially enquired into the matter. I think it would be better if everybody purchased his supplies direct from the bazar.

I think the tapedar is content to make these payments for the munshis' supplies out of the ill-gotten payments by way of lapo in consideration of favours received. He also does so to avoid the harrassment of the munshis. It is also a traditional understanding between the tapedars and the munshis, and the Mukhtiarkars must be aware of it.

I have no doubt that in some cases butlers, pattawallas and munshis are repaid by the tapedars the amounts of their bill which they pay. I dismissed my butler in the beginning of February 1918. It was about the time of my circular of February. The circular came out some days after. I had reasons to think that he was taking illegal cash payments. I have heard rumours of kilo-khorani but I don't think it happens now.

The old system practically continues since 1914. Attempts were made in every taluka by the Collector, Assistant Collector and Mukhtiarkar to induce the zamindars to become contractors for the supply of provisions. A large number did consent—but as a matter of practice the work was done by the tapedars and is still done by them.

I have never heard or seen liquor being put at the bottom of dhalis. I saw a bottle of chutney in my dhali recently which I promptly returned. I have never heard of wines such as champagne and claret being supplied by rasai officials to superior officers. Such a thing would be impossible in my opinion. I can't imagine superior officers trusting the taste of Mukhtiarkars in the matter of wines.

To the Chairman.

I have occasionally seen a bottle of brandy on the table when I have been invited to an Indian tea party. I would never touch it. It is not the custom of officers to take brandy at tea time. It is provided under an entire misapprehension of the habits of officers.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.

My expenses on tour would be roughly Rs. 2 a day. I get very little from the bazar. I take most of the things with myself from head-quarters. I get locally only what is required fresh but butter I get from the dairy at Ruk. I think prices would be dearer in Larkana itself.

I could not give any useful estimate of the exact amount of lapo paid in the district. The net gain to each tapedar would vary from Rs. 100—800 a year—varying according to the size of the tapas. The total land revenue of the district is about 30 lacs.

I believe there are books kept of the rasai fund but I have never seen them. I suppose if I called for them they would at once be fabricated.

I have experience of the endeavours of butlers to prejudice their sahibs against tapedars and mukhtiarkars. They would try to raise such prejudice by stating that proper rasai had not been made. They would try in that manner to extract money. I doubt if butlers would exact Rs. 100 at one time in that way.

I only heard general complaints against my butler. I have no doubt that all butlers do get something and also head peons.

I was 9 months on tour in the Shah Bunder division of the Karachi district. I should say to the best of my recollection that there touring officers were more dependent

on the zamindars—more specially in the lower part, towards the delta of the river Indus. I think there would not be much difference between them but probably more money would change hands here as Larkana is a richer district.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

The Collector has two or more camps in one taluka. The Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector would encamp at 4, 5 or 6 places in a taluka.

I think it would be very difficult to find a contractor to provide all the supplies in the taluka—but we could find one if he were subsidised. I think probably his subsidy would have to be Rs : 15 a month. I have never tried to work out the system. I think it might be worth while to make the experiment. It has been reported that zamindars are unwilling to act as contractors in the Larkana district.

I get 9 or 10 complaints a day at head-quarters. Some come from long distances—others would not take the trouble to come from such distances.

I think bills presented to me represent what I have actually had. I can't of course say what goes on behind my back. My daily cost of Rs. 2 sometimes does and sometimes does not include fodder supplies for my horse. I think karbi is sometimes included in my bills and sometimes not. I take grain for my horse from head-quarters and sometimes purchase it from the bazar at the taluka towns.

Such things as eggs, fowls, grass, etc., are provided by the zamindars—they are not purchased by tapedars.

I think if rasai were stopped, it would deal a blow at lapo but other blows would have to be dealt, otherwise lapo will continue. What I mean is that you must attack lapo at the same time independently of rasai.

I should not recommend putting the whole criminal work of talukas under the Resident Magistrate ; in some cases it is important that they should be tried by the Sub-Divisional Magistrates.

Some Mukhtiarkars are benefited by the rasai fund. I shouldn't like to think that zamindars make rasai for officers in order to curry favour. They do it perhaps from tradition and also perhaps from a spirit of hospitality and friendliness. I think officers of the district in a general way do reciprocate their hospitality.

The question of rasai would not weigh with me for a moment in making recommendations for titles and granting chairs.

I suppose officers naturally get annoyed if there is no arrangement for their supplies. A hungry man is an angry man.

It is not improbable that butlers get in more supplies than are actually necessary. I think the expense of an Assistant Collector's camp is heavier than that of a Deputy Collector's camp.

To Mr. Sawhney.

Officers go to small villages to camp, not for their own pleasure but to do their duty.

Zamindars ask officers to shoot with them in order to increase their abroo which in fact it does increase.

I think it would not be necessary to prosecute thezamindars if they give lapo as much as the tapedar. They could be otherwise dealt with. Their fault is less than the tapedar's.

I think for instance that the appointment of this Committee will convince the zamindars that Government is seriously determined to put a stop to rasai and lapo and this will have considerable effect in stopping these practices.

There is very little rasai in the Deccan as compared with Sind. I don't think it would be practicable to transfer Mukhtiarkars from Sind to the Deccan. I think they would all resign. No Sindhi will like to go there.

I think it would be necessary to raise the tapedars' pay about 50% at least in the lower grade. I think some substantial touring allowance or some increase of pay would be necessary if rasai were abolished and in its place the more expensive contract system is introduced. I speak in respect of peons and also clerks. I think it would hasten the end of the rasai and lapo systems. I think the private servants such as butlers will clamour for higher pay and bhatta on tour. It would indirectly mean higher cost of touring to officers. The general tendency is for wages to rise but I don't think it is necessary specially to compensate the touring officers by additional allowances on account of stoppage of rasai.

There would be undoubtedly exceptional cases in which the present system will have to be resorted to *e.g.*, in the cases of District Superintendents of Police and Executive Engineers. In those cases exceptions would have to be made in the contract system.

I think it would be an improvement if tapedars' pay were increased and if they and supervising tapedars were graded with the clerical establishments and given opportunities to rise to the post of Mukhtiarkars.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.

I have sometimes had to visit small villages to see disputed sites.

I think some improvement has been made by my circular of February 1918—but I don't suppose to any very great extent.

To the Chairman.

There are questions in connection with crops, lands and irrigation which have to be enquired into on the spot by the Collector. It is also desirable to see the zamindars in their homes and on their own lands. The mere presence of the Collector is a safeguard to some extent against petty tyrannies. The Collector has also to visit schools and inspect public buildings and dispensaries. It is also his business to see how far the roads are maintained. He has also to study questions of reduced rates of land revenue and the protection of the district and all these things mean visits to the spot; they cannot be done at headquarters. These are only a few of the matters which require the Collector's going on tour through the district. I did not go into the details of the complaint against my butler. I dismissed him as I found there were general complaints, after consulting the Mukhtiarkars.

The introduction of the system of independent contractors for rasai is very largely a question of cost—that is apart from the question of chher.

Circular No. 1016 *dated* 21*st February* 1918.

It has been brought to the notice of the Collector that standing orders on the subject of Lapo and Rasai are still frequently violated by the Mukhtyarkars and the Kanungo (village officers) establishment. They are hereby again warned that if they are found countenancing anything in the shape of Rasai to the touring officers and their establishments they will be punished with the utmost severity. Moreover any zamindar found in fault in this respect will be regarded by the Collector with the utmost displeasure. The Mukhtyarkars should understand that the direct or indirect making of presents of money to any private servant or peons is absolutely prohibited.

The Collector will be much obliged to the Mukhtyarkars who report personally or demi-officially any such menials found making improper demands or otherwise creating trouble.

The touring officers are requested to see that all articles so far as possible are bought from the village banias at camps where there is a sufficiently large bazaar to enable servants to make purchases direct. Zamindars or Tapedars are expected to make arrangements only for those supplies which cannot be procured from the market such as grass, fuel, milk, butter, mutton, fowls and eggs and no more. They should not be asked to supply grain. Fuel and grass where they cost nothing need not be paid for. If this system be carried out, zamindars will, it is believed, no longer object to undertaking contracts for supplies; and Tapedars will gradually be eliminated from the business.

The Mukhtyarkars are requested to make these orders widely known to all subordinates and to those zamindars who have undertaken to procure supplies for the camp of touring officers. The Collector is convinced that the Mukhtyarkars can do a great deal towards stamping out the evil, and he trusts that each of them will make a real effort for this object.

Letter No. 2456 dated 11th May 1918.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, 'RASAI' COMMITIEE IN SIND.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 52. dated 27th April 1018. I have the honour to report as under :—

2. In each Taluka of the District, Assistant and Deputy Collectors camp, on an average, at 6 places, and the Colleetor at 4 places.

3. The average distance between such camps may be put at 8 to 10 miles.

4. I am of opinion that the experiment of granting seris to certain zamindars on condition of their acting as camp caterers might in the first instance be tried in one taluka. I doubt if the scheme will be popular among the zamindars. In most cases it would probably be necessary to bestow a seri grant of a size sufficient to yield Rs. 200 per annum to the holder. It has to be remembered that there is a very considerable difference in the numbers of camps at the various centres. Some of them are visited only by the Asisistant or Deputy Collector, whereas at others there are also camps of the Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer, the Divisional Forest Officer, the Deputy Educational Inspector and other officers. Apart from these, the case of the Mukhtyarkar has to be considered. Naturally he has a greater number of camping places than the Sub-Divisional Officer. But this difficulty could be removed by restricting the Mukhtyarkar to the 5 or 6 recognised camps.. The case of the Police is less simple. A robbery or a dacoity may occur in any village, and for purposes of investigation it may be absolutely imperative that a Police officer—whether the District Superintendent of Police himself, or his Assistant, or an Inspector or a Sub-Inspector—should camp at that village. If they were confined to a few stated camps, the detection of crime would assuredly become less thorough. It may be added that an investigating Police Officer is often accompanied for a few days by a troop of zamindars, who come to give their assistance. Their presence is another factor in the problem of rasai.

5. It is possible that the seridar would have difficulty in securing labour for the camps, though this is a matter which actual experience must decide. If he is to provide vegetables, he will generally be required to cultivate them himself. It is unlikely that he will have either the skill or the inclination to do this properly. In the case of some camping-grounds, it is almost certain that no suitable seridar will be available. Moreover, once the seri is given, we shall be very much in the hands of the seridar. It will not be practicable to transfer the grant whenever a complaint is made about the quality of the catering. These complaints will no doubt be very numerous, and will provide a ready weapon for subordinate officials who may quite unreasonably fall foul of the seridar.

6.. While I have ventured to point to some of the obstacles which confront the proposal, I am yet of opinion that it might be given a trial. For the scheme has at least the great merit of eliminating the tapedar from the task of furnishing supplies.

7. I am in favour of the suggestion for inducing banias to act as modis at camps, on the understanding that cash payments at the time of each purchase are rigorously enforced. I am not in favour of monthly subsidies, but would propose that, if a money inducement is requisite, a fixed fee of about Rs. 1 for each day that the bania actually attends the camp should be allowed.

8. The local rates could be fixed every month by the Mukhtyarkar for the camping-places within his taluka.

9. It would certainly be desirable to replace supervising tapedars by superior officers. But I think that in order to check the power of the tapedar it will be necessary to provide at least two Joint Mukhtyarkars. These should ordinarily be Muhammadans. Their duties should be confined to outdoor work, and include the testing of the tapedars' partal, and the personal supervision of all such matters as land grants unauthorised cultivaton, and encroachments. In order to maintain their authority, the Joint Mukhtyarkars might be invested with magisterial powers, but they should very rarely try cases. At best, a large measure of influence will remain with the tapedars, as being the men on the spot, and the men to whom land revenue is paid. Travelling by day in the hot weather is sufficiently unpleasant, and it may be expected that the Joint Mukhtyarkars will not seldom shirk this arduous work. The question also arises, whether they are to tour the whole year round, and as to the nature of their duties during any recess which they may be permitted to spend at head-quarters. Their relations with the Mukhtyarkar of the taluka will be of a delicate nature, and calculated to engender bad feeling, with the result that the administration may suffer. Although I am not sanguine as to the outcome of the scheme, I am respectfully of opinion that it might be introduced in a single taluka as an experiment.

Statement showing the aggregate number of (1) Amils (2) other Hindus and (3) Mahomedans employed in the subordinate Establishments of the Mukhtiarkars, Assistant aud Deputy Collectors and the Collector in the Larkana District.

MUKHTIARKARS.			ASSISTANT & DEPUTY COLLECTORS.			COLLECTOR.			TREASURY.		
Amils.	Other Hindus.	Mahomedans.	Amils.	Other Hindus.	Mahomedans.	Amils.	Other Hindus.	Mahomedans.	Amils.	Other Hindus.	Mahomedans.
19	20	38	8	10	9	9	8	6	10	9	3

Rough Statement showing the number of Zamindars in the Larkana District.

Paying assesment under Rs. 1000 each year.		Paying over Rs. 1,000 but under 5,000.		Paying over Rs 5,000 but under 10,000.		Paying over Rs. 10,000		
Mahomedans.	Hindus.	Mahomedans.	Hindus.	Mahomedans.	Hindus.	Mahomedans.	Hindus.	
52,030	10,000	132	62	15	6	..	..	

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CURRY.

Preliminary

1. Name.	1. J. C. Curry.
2. Appointment.	2. D. S. P.
3. Head-quarters.	3. Larkana.
4. Length of service.	4. 10½ years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 8½ years in Sind.

General.

6 What is the area covered by your tour ?	6. 5,000 sq. miles.
7. What is the period of your tour ?	7. Regular tour about 5 months. Touring in connexion with crime throughout year at intervals.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour ?	8. Varies from one to seven according to circumstances.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ?	9. 2, sometimes 3 clerks, 3 to 7 orderlies.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ?	10. See attached note.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	11. See attached note.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ?	12. Question not understood. Amount varies according to circumstances.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ?	13. Nil, for my personal use except occasionally a bed.
14. What tents do you take on tour ?	14. Varies according to circumstances.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ?	15. They ordinarily occupy tents, rowtis and the outhouses of bungalows.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ?	16. Bungalow stables, thana stables are used, occasionally temporary shelter is put up by borrowing materials worth a few rupees from local zamindars, labour is done by trackers and zemindar's cher.
17. What records do you take on tour ?	17. None—current work in 2 boxes.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ?	18. In bungalows or tents.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	19. I require none. My orderlies do the labour and sometimes get voluntary help from villagers who happen to have nothing to do and from zamindars cheras.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ?	20. Some are good especially where the higher revenue officers tour. Same are very bad.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?	21. The Mukhtiarkar.

22 Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ?

22. No, none.

23 What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters ?

23. Camels, horses, public conveyances.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?

24. The Post Office and police orderlies.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ?

25. Not understood. I camp anywhere throughout the district where I may have work.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?

26. None.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ?

27. Ordinarily all camps are near a village, all villages have shops or nearly all.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?

28. I do not know.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ?

29. See list of bungalows in the district.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?

30 Ordinarily a chowkidar.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?

31. *See* note attached.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?

32. *See* note.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?

33. They equal the average daily requirements of ordinary men of their class.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?

34. Bazaar rates for articles purchasable in the bazaars.

Fowls 3 to 6 as. Milk, not usually sold. Fuel, and grass, bazaar rates if bought; usually supplied by zamindars who refuse payment.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. This question requires explanation

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?

36. Varies between less than Rs. 1 and Rs. 15. My mathematical education does not extend to calculating this average. Call it X.

37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

37. By buying them from the shop keepers except in the cases detailed in the note

38. How are they paid for ?

38. By paying the shopkeepers; for my personal requirements not obtained from shopkeepers see note.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?

39. As regards shopkeepers the same guarantees that I have in head quarters. As regards others none, but the average honesty of a Sindhi.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

40. As x to y.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

41. It is less in some cases, the difference being pocketed by banias who over-charge. It is greater in some by the amount of free milk, grass and fuel provided.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

42. There is no police rasai fund.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

43. These are all sent temporarily and in small numbers and not paid for.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

44. I do not obtain any. I have my own and they are sent out with the post.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?

45. No.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public sevice ?

46. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

47. Zamindars object to taking up the contracts. I have nothing to do with tapedars and they have nothing to do with supplies for my camp.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. See note attached.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

49. No; I never know one day where my camp will be the next.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.

50. No and my orders are that whatever can be obtained in the bazaar will be bought there. The thanedars are only responsible for producing milk, chickens, eggs, grass fuel when they cannot be bought in the bazaar.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars ?

51 I receive such presents very occasionally. Many zamindars see me constantly without making them. Some never make them. Punchayats always bring a little sugar.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep ?

52. From a few annas to Rs. 4 or 5 for a sheep. I have received either 2 or 3 sheep in the whole touring season.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Governmen ?

53. The Committee have presumably learnt the orders of Government by this time. I have never insulted a zamindar by refusing but I endeavour to let them see I do not want them.

My own subordinates are strictly forbidden to make any such presents. I recently had trouble with an Amil officer who was unwilling to take a refusal of a few annas worth of vegetables.

Lapo.

54. Does not concern the Police. I see it has been suggested by Mr. Bhurgri and others that lapo is only levied to provide rasai. This I consider is wholly untrue.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'

61 How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. I have never heard of the Police getting Lapo *in any shape or form and do not see how they could, as they deal with no such questions.*

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

66 & 67. Labour provided by haris and under agreement with their zemindars as a condition on which land is given to them to cultivate.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Any labour required by the zemindar within certain limits as to time and distance.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. I believe so.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?

70. This depends on their agreement and varies considerably, I believe, with conditions and circumstances.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. I have no accurate information.

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Ditto.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. Certain zemindars, I understand, have seri grants in return for which they arrange for labour.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. I have no accurate information but a considerable number appear to be.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. I do not require any at all—my orderlies get a certain amount of help of an apparently voluntary nature in pitching tents. The voluntary helpers are frequently to be seen sitting, smoking the orderlies' tobacco, while the latter do most of the work.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. I require none—police trackers do occasional odd jobs.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. The number who turn up varies considerably.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

78 & 79. I have seen men idling in a village asked casually to lend a hand, or called up by the zemindar. They never ask for payment; for zemindar's cher vide 66.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. The cost of hired labour might be one rupee for striking or pitching camp. I do not think it would always be available.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. No; it would also be objectionable.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?	82. See note.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?	83. See note.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?	84. See note.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?	85. I do not know exactly.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?	86. I have never inquired closely into the matter.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?	87. I do not know exactly. I have never inquired.
88. Are the labouers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?	88. Do.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?	89. I do not know—large cherras for making roads are probably the only ones which interfere with cultivation.
90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?	90. I do not know.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?	91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.	92. See Note.

Note on questions 10 & 11.

I carry the ordinary stores with me. I buy butter from Ruk. I get my own vegetables from Larkana; they are brought out by the orderly who brings the post. I keep a riding camel and loading camels which bring these and similar articles from the station to the camp. I keep and take on tour a cow for milk. When I move suddenly on long distances I have to get milk from zamindars. Big zamindars and even small men will refuse money for milk. When following dacoits or similarly moving rapidly without any kit I have frequently received hospitality from the poorest people who scorn the idea of payment for a small quantity of milk etc. Ragged Baluchi shepherds will refuse money offered to them under circumstances where no official pressure by subordinates can possibly come into question. I have been offered food when on a journey by the poorest people.

In the ordinary way when at a camp with full complement of servants and office establishment my personal requirements apart from such things as can be and are bought from the bazar are limited to an occasional chicken, eggs daily, fuel, and grass for the horses. Chickens and eggs could only be obtained by an officer's servant by a house to house inquiry where there is no 'kokri' (chicken seller). It is clearly impossible and objectionable for strange servants to arrange this. Grass I pay for where I find it is to be had, but usually the local zemindar sends it. Fuel he also sends as there is some difficulty about purchasing large quantities.

The servants and office establishment get free milk and fuel. The milk is supplied by zemindars because the 'gaulis' apparently cannot arrange suddenly for an extra supply for 15 to 20 extra people.

The thanedars have no responsibility for arranging for any other supplies hence, as they are not taken to task if a servant or orderly complains that he cannot get anything —flour for instance—there is no reason for them to supply the things. Those which I do ask them to supply are of small value, being the local produce of the land for which the landowners will not take payment as they have been so supplied from time immemorial. I pay for eggs, chickens, etc. to the thanedars who provide them. They cannot be obtained in any other way and they are the necessities of life. I do not however approve of the system. It has been a constant source of worry and annoyance to me for several years and is bound to lead to abuses on the part of subordinates however closely I may watch them. Watching and constantly inquiring about the matter is exceedingly irksome and disagreeable. If the committee can find any way out of the difficulty I shall personally be profoundly grateful to them. The zemindar-contractor system has been tried and failed. My system, though limiting the room for abuse, does leave some room for it. The proposal to give 'seris' to zemindars on condition of their supplying such articles as cannot be purchased in the bazaar may be considered. I am afraid it would leave loop-holes for unscrupulous subordinates. I suggest that khansamahs, preferably Muhammadans from Northern India, should be provided at all the important bungalows and they should be entirely responsible for providing all requirements of travellers as is done in Baluchistan and other civilized places. All responsibility for the collection of supplies could then be removed from officials. It might be necessary to increase taxation in order to provide sufficient fully equipped dak bungalows, as they should be sufficiently commodious to accommodate more than one person at a time—but no improvements can be made in the administration of a country except by paying for them.

The removal of the difficulty as to supplies as regards district officers would not remove that as regards taluka officers, who have to visit small villages constantly (whereas district officers, though it is absolutely necessary for them to camp at small villages sometimes, are able to do a considerable portion of their work from central places).

In the case of Muktiarkars and others I think the line between rasai and corruption is not easily drawn and with corruption the present inquiry has no concern. As regards Muhammadan officials the question of their rasai is modified by the fact that most of them keep open house and entertain in head quarters the zemindars who entertain them on tour. It is noticeable that Muhammadans as a rule retire in comparatively poor circumstances. Hindu officials do not return the hospitality of zemindars in quite the same way. I would suggest to the Committee that they should hold a special inquiry into the house property and other property of ex-tapedars and others in Hyderabad and other places where such people are numerous with a view to obtaining accurate data as to sources from which the property of these people is obtained. It is well known that large quantities of grain and provisions are sent into towns like Hyderabad from the rasai collected by subordinate officials on tour and in the talukas.

Note on Shikar.

For this purpose I obtain casual labour where it is available and where I am not the guest of a friend. I pay the casual labour at the rate of about 8 as. a day and 2, 3, or 4 as. for shorter periods. I have sometimes offered money to zemindar's men in the absence of the zemindar and had it refused. I have heard of cases of zemindars severely punishing their servants for taking money for shikar.

I have never insulted a zemindar by asking him whether he paid his men.

Some of the zemindars with whom I am on friendly terms go out shooting themselves with me and are very keen shots. It would be an obvious insult to such a man to offer to pay his 'chher.' I have sometimes with their permission distributed tobacco, etc. I have offered to pay the chher of men who do not shoot themselves but in 9 cases out of 10 they will strongly object.

One feature of the present agitation which I consider objectionable is the suggestion, implied in this matter of shikar, that officers should treat all zemindars as their inferiors. Most officers treat a number of zemindars as their friends and behave on terms of equality with them.

Note on Chher.

The question of chher does not concern the Police, except in a very unimportant and casual way. There is however one question in connexion with the chher employed by the Revenue Department for mending roads which would be the better for some alteration.

The objections to the present system are that large chhers are sometimes used by Mukhtiarkars—both at the time of the Collector's tours and otherwise—to perform the labour supposed to be done by beldars. (It is commonly said that the beldars are employed as pankha pullers, etc., by the Mukhtiarkars, or their pay is misappropriated by the Mukhtiarkar's munshis—and their work is therefore left undone when the Collector is not touring). Not being skilled workmen they (the chherrs) do it very badly. I would suggest that the care of roads should be handed over to the Public Works Department as elsewhere. The Mukhtiarkars and their subordinates are not properly trained in this technical work.

If the P.W.D. undertook the work it would be better done and the workmen would be properly paid as is probably not always the case at present. It is important from the police point of view that communications in the district should be good.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CURRY.

To the Chairman.

I don't buy chickens in taluka towns, only at Larkana.

With regard to my answer to question 73, I say Rasul Bakhsh has a seri grant in consideration of which he has to supply labour. I don't know the details of seri grants.

I think it would take half an hour or so to pitch one big tent. It would require at least 7 or 8 men.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

I have said that rasai is an evil which ought to be stopped.

I can't say generally if the establishments of officers do not pay for their supplies. I have not specially studied the rasai of the revenue department. The tapadar has nothing to do with my rasai. I get only fodder from the zamindar. Whatever can't be purchased from the bania locally is got from the zamindar through the Sub Inspector. The Mukhtiarkar has nothing to do with my rasai. I can't say exactly about eggs and fowls but I think zemindars are paid by the Sub Inspector and I pay the Sub Inspector. I think the Sub Inspector buys eggs from small zemindars or even haris or from towns. I can't say for certain whether these people are paid by the Sub Inspector.

To the Chairman.

I don't think that Sub Inspectors make improper use of powers under Chapter VIII for instance to exact supplies from the zamindars. Of course there might be instances of such things being done by dishonest men. The power to authorize prosecutions under Chapter VIII are retained by the D.S.P. and also Dy. Superintendent. The power is not left to the Sub Inspector or Inspector.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

I do not act on reports received from the Sub Inspectors. The preliminary enquiries are made by the Inspector. It is not the business of the Sub Inspector to make enquiries under Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Inspectors now make such enquiries. Those are the orders of the Commissioner.

The Sub Inspector does sometimes make recommendations in the matters of gun licenses and chairs.

The contract system was tried in the Hyderabad district while I was there and also in the Karachi district and some attempts were made in this district but it failed owing to zamindars' objections. As far as I know it was not a success in any of the three districts. There were many places in which no zamindars would come forward to act as contractors. They were appointed by the Collector and were to work for all departments; that was in accordance with the Commissioner's orders of 1914. I was then in Sukkur.

To the Hon. Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

I think the circular of 1914 has indirectly improved matters because it has brought to the notice of people that the system of rasai is considered objectionable. I think there has been some improvement in abuses of rasai since 1914 in places where contractors have

been appointed—that is to say zamindar contractors. Sometimes they are bania contractors. I don't think there are any zamindar contractors in Larkana district. They are Bania contractors. The zamindar contractors were tried in Hyderabad and Karachi districts.

The bills were usually presented by the kamdars and the actual amounts were paid. The zamindars strongly object to act anywhere as contractors. I think khansamas of staging bungalows would do well if you got the right type of man. But I don't think the contractors could be found to go with the camps. I don't think you can get the contractors in the rural areas of Sind. You might get a few from big towns or bring them from the Punjab. The zemindars do not get honours for making rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney.

I think it possible to have contractors for central places. Exceptions would have to be made in emergent cases.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.

The police posts are established to maintain order, to protect the public, to enable the police to supervise criminals who are far from police stations and to enable the people of the neighbourhood to prefer complaints. It is in the interest of the public that these outposts should be inspected by the D.S.P. Applications for gun licenses are made direct to the District Magistrate. As a rule these are sent for report to the Sub Divisional Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police. I only call for report from the Inspectors when I do not know the men personally. I have never heard of Sub Inspectors recommending a man for gun license or a chair.

Note on the Police Modi.

The Police modi is appointed at every thana by the thanedar, that is to say the thanedar agrees with one of the banias of the local bazar that he shall be recognized as such. The advantage, in this agreement, to the modi is that he practically has a monopoly for the supply of the ordinary requirements of the policemen of the thana and that he has a guarantee for the payment of bills because the thanedar sees that his subordinates fulfil their obligations, sometimes, when necessary, by having the accounts settled with the modi when the men receive their pay.

The advantage to the policemen is that they are able to keep a running account and even borrow small amounts from the modi which they would not otherwise be able to do without furnishing security.

The policemen usually obtain all or most of their requirements in the way of flour, oil, ghee, etc., from the modi.

Miscellaneous supplies such as food for prisoners in police custody, paper, oil etc., required at Government expense are ordinarily obtained from him by the thanedar.

Although the thanedar to a great extent guarantees payment by the subordinates the modi charges heavy interest for advances, varying from ½ anna to 1 anna in the rupee per mensem.

The existence of the modi is recognised by the District Superintendent of Police. Applications are frequently made by policemen, on transfer, that their pay may be paid direct to the modi of the thana they have left. This, being convenient to both parties, is sanctioned.

J. C. CURRY,

District Superintendent of Police, Larkana.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. PHILPOT BROOKES.

1. Name.	1. C. H. H. Philpot-Brookes, Assoc. M. Inst. C. E., Assoc. Kings College, London University.
2. Appointment.	2. Executive Engineer, Western Nara District.
3. Head-quarters.	3. Larkana.
4. Length of service.	4. Ten and a half years.
5 Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 21 months in Sind. No special experience.

General

6. What is the area covered by your tour ?	6. About 6,000 square miles.
7. What is the period of your tour ?	7. All the year round, but chiefly during the months of November to June, that is eight months ; and I never stay more than 2 or 3 days at a camp and often only one day.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour ?	8. Butler, cook, sweeper and syce.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ?	9. Two clerks and 5 menials (peons).
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them of tour ?	10. I take all general stores except perishables. The establishment I understand take potatoes, pulse, grain.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	11. I personally require chickens, milk, potatoes and such like perishable articles. The servants and establishment require milk, meat and if they run short of grain they get it from the local village shops.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ?	12. I take every thing that is necessary during the tour, except cots for servants and these I consider should be provided in each bungalow.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ?	13. As stated I only require cots about 10 in number, which I propose to provide in each Bungalow.
14. What tents do you take on tour ?	14. Only the office tent.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ?	15. There are permanent quarters in Bungalows. I never have kacha huts put up as it is against Government orders to do so in Government compounds.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ?	16. All Bungalows are provided with stabling for horses.
17. What records do you take on tour ?	17. These vary according to the time of year but generally speaking the records of the last three years.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ?	18. Office quarters are generally provided to Bungalows and otherwise the clerks work in the tent, they require no other arrangements.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	19. I require no outside labour, my establishment attend to all my and the office needs.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ?	20. There are only 5 miles of road in charge of the P. W. D. and they are in excellent condition.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?

21. For the 5 miles referred to in Answer 20, the Public Works Department are responsible; all other roads are in charge of the Local Board or Municipalities.

22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ?

22. No special repairs are ever done for my special benefit.

23. What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters ?

23. By horse and camel, and kit by camel and I employ my pack camels for my private and official work for the whole touring season; except in hot weather, July to October, when I generally keep near the railway which runs through my district.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?

24. By railway and special camels employed all the touring season.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ?

25. There can be said to be no usual camping places. I tour all over the district.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?

26. I do not use camping grounds, neither are they under my charge.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ?

27. All the Bungalows are in practical reach of villages, where all general supplies can be obtained.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?

28. Some of the P. W. D. Bungalows have a small vegetable plot for cold weather vegetables.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalow ?

29. All my camps are provided with Bungalows.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?

30. The permanent establishment employed is generally a chowkidar and some places with mali as well.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?

31. Any thing supplied to any one without payment for the same.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?

32. One chicken, 3 seers of milk, occasionally wheat flour if my supply runs short, no eggs as I take my own chickens with me ; potatoes and sugar if my supply is run out.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?

33. I really do not know what they cost, but know it costs about 3 to 4 annas to servants and about 8 annas for clerks.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?

34. Chickens, 4 to 6 annas, milk 1 to 2 annas per seer, sugar 8 annas per seer : Potatoes 3 to 4 annas per seer ; eggs, if required 4 to 5 annas per dozen ; Fire wood no value.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?

35. Beyond large villages there is no market value for milk and firewood, a large babul tree selling often for under a Rupee.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?

36. For the things supplied in district for myself about Re. 1 per day, sometimes less ; for servants and menials 3 to 4 annas and for the clerks 8 annas per day.

37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

37. The darogha goes to the nearest village and buys them.

38. How are they paid for ?

38. By cash payments to the shop keepers except chickens which he gets locally.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?

39. None, but I presume a shop keeping bania will not give things for nothing and secondly as I pay personally I do not think one's own men would cheat me.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

40. My estimated average daily cost is the same as the actual payments because I see I pay for everything I eat.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkar ?

41. See answer 40.

42. Is the excess met out of a ' Rasai' fund mainained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

42. See answer 40—there is no rasai fund in the Public Works Department.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

43. I have my own water jars—the cots for establishment I do not pay hire for—for my own they are in very bungalow, and I requisition no other furniture. See answer 12.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

44. Vide answer 28. Vegetable plots are run by me in some P. W. D. Bungalow compounds, otherwise I get no vegetable.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?

45. No.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public sevice ?

46. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

47. It has not been practicable as neither the tapedars nor the zamindars come forward to provide supplies to P. W. D.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?

48. No. The latter portion does not concern me.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

49. Timely intimation is always given to my own establishment but not to contractors or zamindars who have nothing whatever to do with the arrangements of my camp.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.

50. Nothing special that I have seen.

51. Do you receive " Dhalis " of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars ?

51. Zamindars when calling sometimes, but seldom, bring dhalis of fruit and sometimes a sheep at Christmas, but never vegetables. Subordinates are not allowed to give dhalis.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such " Dhalis " and sheep ?

52. I should estimate the price of a fruit Dhali at Rs. 2 to 3 and a sheep at Rs. 4 but the latter perhaps cost the zamindar less. A sheep in the Ahmednagar District used to cost Rs. 1-8-0 to 2-0-0.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. The orders are defined in rule 2 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. The customary yearly gratuity given to and accepted by certain classes.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. There are many.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. I know nothing of other departments but I feel sure that some daroghas receive presents from zamindars once a year and it is no way a forced gratuity.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. I think it depends on the man and there are no fixed rates, I again refer to the P. W. D. of this district.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. The item of gratuity I have classed under lapo in no way goes to pay for expenses of touring officers and as there is no rasai fund it does not go to that but as far as I can gather simply goes into the pocket of the darogas.

59. If so, who manages the Rasai Fund?

59. As stated there is no rasai fund as far as we are concerned.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. Vide answer 58; in no way does any of this money go as presents to any of the private or official establishment of touring officers.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. I do not know and as stated in answer 56 I consider it depends on the parties. I understand there is no fixed rate at all.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. This question does not apply to this department.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. No.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. I can not suggest anything as it appears to be solely in the hands of the zamindars to give or not to give and they alone are the people who can stop it.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Conscription—Labour forced on to works at times of great emergencies for public benefit, vide Irrigation Act, Section 58. The term in no way means forced and unpaid labour or should not mean this.

67. Who are the 'Chheras"?

67. Any able bodied man.

68. In this district, Western Nara, for closing serious breaches, but under this Act can be called upon to do any work so as to prevent any serious injury or loss to the public.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. No. A chher may be any able bodied man nominated by the Collector and called up by the Executive Engineer.

70. When so employed, do the receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?

70. They are paid at the current rate of labour prevailing in the locality and are paid in money or if they prefer in part food and part money.

71. For general works in normal years casual labour is plentiful in this district, but in case of emergencies where public interest is at stake we can not wait to collect this casual labour to a sufficient extent; of course all casual labour that can be obtained locally is first taken.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. During the abkalani a staff of beldars are employed by Government.

73. They are in no way bound at all but in such times of emergencies I have found except at and near Sehwan and Dadu, the local zamindar is always ready to give help in collecting chher but this is often because his own interests are immediately at stake but the chher they collect are as a general rule paid or fed.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

74. I do not think so, and even if there are such cases, it makes no difference as far as this department is concerned, as from my 4 years' irrigation experience in the Deccan these were never sufficient and were low caste people and had to be worked in special gangs and I often had occasion to bring into force section 53 of the Bombay Irrigation Act, and never heard of any complaints.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

75. I do not require any outside labour when on tour.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

76. Only my own establishment which is sufficient.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

77. None.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

78. Therefore I don't have need to obtain them.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

79. I do not require outside labour.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

80 & 81 See answer 76.

82. I have only shot a few times, and at these times I was the guest to a zamindar and I could not insult them by offering to pay, the same as one could not insult a large farmer in England if he asked you to shoot over his estate.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. Vide answer 82. I did not offer to pay.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. I did not ask, the same as I have never asked a friend if he paid his servant when I have shot over an estate in England as a guest.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

85 & 86. Do not refer to me.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. This solely depends on the circumstances and the seriousness of the case and may vary from 20 to 1,000.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. As stated in answer 70—they are paid by the Government.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. I cannot say definitely but when I call a Chher it is for a public benefit and private interest cannot be always considered, the same as it is not considered in any other country, but I always try to cause the least hardship possible.

90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

90. Beldars employed by the P. W. D. would be nothing like sufficient to cope with the work at times of such emergencies and again these men cannot be taken from their allotted posts, otherwise damage may be caused elsewhere.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

92. Absolutely no, (if they are called for a public benefit only as is done by this department), otherwise public interest would suffer for the sake of a few private individuals who may suffer very little if at all.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. PHILPOTT BROOKES.

To the Chairman.—

My charge extends from Larkana to Kotri and from the river to the hills. I only use tents when there are no office quarters provided at the bungalows. All my camps are in bungalows.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

With regard to question 92 I refer simply to paid labour (chher) called in emergent cases. All my answers to questions deal with my own department only (P. W. D.) Daroghas in my department have no influence over the zamindars.

The darogha might favour the zamindar by not sending his cattle to the pound. He might favour him by reporting the possibility of a breach. He might refrain from reporting waste of water but he would run the risk of being found out by Sub-Overseers, Overseers and Executive Engineers and of getting dismissed.

I know of no cases in which daroghas have received fixed payments for shewing favour to the zamindars. The orders as regards daroghas and mucadums are first, fine of Rs. 5 and then dismissal, in cases of lopping or damage to trees on canal banks. I take no excuse. If the wood is cut this rule is enforced.

The overseers and sub-overseers have means of showing favours to the zamindars.

The supplies are not supplied by the zamindars but they are supplied by villagers on tour. I can't say if the supplies are arranged for by the daroghas or muccadams. I do not know of any case in which they have got free supplies from zamindars.

To the Chairman.—

I don't know of any payment of percentage of 3 or 5—6 or 10% being exacted from contractors. It would be impossible to get false measurements made or bad work passed by making payments to the subordinate establishment as 60% of everything is checked by the Executive Engineer.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

As far as I can ascertain presents are not made to the subordinate establishments. No payments are made to overseers or sub-overseers by the contractors. The amounts given to daroghas would vary enormously. That would depend upon the position of the zamindars and the civilities of the daroghas. I should think that it would vary from Re. 1 to Rs. 20. The daroghas' beat covers the lands of many zamindars. I should say that the darogha spends nothing out of the presents that he receives on supplies given to the touring officers including overseers and sub-overseers, nor does he pay anything to their establishment. Every thing goes to his own pocket.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

A fair number of zamindars would pay Re. 1 or Rs. 2; very few would pay Rs. 20 The payment would be made once a year.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF K. S. DHANI BAKSH JATOI.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Khan Saheb Dhani Baksh Jatoi.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindari.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. — 3. About 10 thousand.

4. Residence. — 4. Beto.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Honorary Magistrate.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. The word rasai is derived from 'Rasadan' which means supplies. Therefore rasai means to provide supplies at officers' camps.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 25 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Mehar, Rawan, Garkan, Waghon and Nasirabad.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Deputy Collector, the Mukhtiarkar the Judicial Commissioner, the District Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Fowls: eggs: milk. grass. firewood and butter.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. — 11 and 12. We get these supplies from our own houses. If anything which is wanting we purchase it from our 'raj' and supply it. We pay for it at the bazar rate.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? — 13. In big and small villages milk, firewood and grass have market values.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 14 and 15. Even in small villages we purchase firewood for our own use as it comes from the forests. There are no jungles in our kabuli lands nor in Government waste in our neighbourhood. Even if there were Government jungles, we could not touch them. We buy firewood for camps in the neighbouring villages to save unnecessary cartage.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. It is very small; not more than a rupee per day.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes, we provide fowls, eggs, mutton, milk, firewood, grass and butter. The rest such as grain etc., are obtained by them from the shop-keeper for which payment is made by the tapadar, who previously levies for the purpose 2 or 2½ annas per jireb from zamindars at the first instalment for both Kharif and Rabi. If the camp is in the village of a large land holder, supplies of grain and other provisions are also paid for by him.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

18. The daily cost is for the :

Mukhtiarkar	...	Rs.	10 to 20
Assistant and Deputy Collector	...	,,	20 to 30
Collector	...	,,	40 to 50
Commissioner	...	,,	50 to 100
Sub-Inspector	...	,,	5 to 10
Inspector	...	,,	10 to 15
District Superintendent of Police	...	,,	30 to 40
Deputy Inspector General of Police	...	,,	40 to 60
Sub-Overseer	...	,,	10 to 15
Overseer	...	,,	15 to 25
Executive Engineer	...	,,	30 to 50
Superintending Engineer	...	,,	40 to 60

Officers of the Forest Department come to us seldom as there are no forests in our neighbourhood.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. Supplies from banias' shops are provided by subordinate officials in each department. They levy lapo for the purpose previously. Tapadars levy one anna per rupee, the Police Department a lump sum at the beginning of winter, the Public Works Department Rs. 4 per paka culvert, Rs. 2 per kacha culvert and Rs. 1-4-0 per Persian wheel at the close of the inundation season.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. Vide answers to questions 16 and 18.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. The cost per each camp has been shown above.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. We receive no payment.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The loss falls on the tapadars.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Generally not ; as they have their own rowtis. Only the Mukhtiarkar, the Surveyor, the Sub-Inspector and the Inspector live in our otaks.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. It does not cost us anything.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. No. When, however, officers dismiss their camels we have to provide them with bullock carts for which they do not pay us.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. See reply to question No. 27. Generally it costs us nothing.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. We have to make special rasai for the local officials on whose good will depends the water-supply of our lands and our respect.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. Details have been given above.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. Rasai and anaki cost between Rs. 800 to 1,000 a year.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. Rasai is made through tapadars, policemen and daroghas.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. The subordinates present bills to their officers but I cannot say whether they receive payment, as none is made to us.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars, firstly, because we shall have to neglect our own work and secondly because if we accept payment, we shall do so to our shame and to the displeasure of officers.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. No Muhammadan will come forward to take up such contracts. Probably Hindu contractors will be found.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. My first contention against rasai is that since officers get their pay, zamindars should not be burdened with their rasai. Secondly rasai interferes with our own work. In my opinion touring should be curtailed. The higher officers should encamp in taluka headquarters and the lower officers in big towns. They should either carry provisions with them or buy them locally through their servants and not through zamindars, tapedars, policemen or daroghas, for these subordinates in their difficulty to meet the cost trouble zamindars who have constant dealings with them.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. We do, as we present them of our own free will and it gives us pleasure to do so. It costs me about Rs. 50 or 60 per year. I give sheep and some fruit of my own. On fruit obtained from the market my expenditure is about 50 or 60 rupees per year.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. It should not be stopped.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo is the elder brother of rasai. Formerly it was known as 'anaki' (one anna) but now it is known as 'duanki' (two annas) or 'sianki' (3 annas). The word lapo is derived from 'lap' (a handful) and means a little grain from the produce given to one who renders some service. All officials however take cash in lieu of grain.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest Departments?

40. The forms of unauthorized lapo have been given above. It is levied in all the departments whose officer tour.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. At the rates given above.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. All taluka officials levy it at the rates given above.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Lapo is levied for making rasai. What remains over is retained by subordinate officials.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Peons and private servants are paid Rs.2 annually as bakshish. This is not a heavy charge for us and it is left to us to pay it or not.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?

45. Because they render us service.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

46. We pay unauthorized lapo unwillingly as tapedars make reports against us over trifling things and cause delay in the disposal of papers relating to our land grants. Their officers also indicate that we should help them in rasai. If we do not pay lapo to Public Works subordinates they trouble us and our haris in the matter of water-supply and when we pass along the banks of canals they make reports to their officers against us with the result that they get displeased with us. The Police subordinates have unlimited powers. If we displease them our respect is imperilled.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?

47. Tapedars and subordinates of other departments levy such exactions.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?

48. Details are given above.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?

49. Not at all.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars ?

50. On payments made by money order, lapo is levied to some extent. On payments at the taluka office it has on the contrary increased.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?

51. Lapo cannot be stopped until officers of revenue and other departments are in earnest about it. Powers of tapedars, policemen and daroghas should be curtailed.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?

52. Chher means helpless men employed on work without payment.

53. Who are the 'Chheras' ?

53. Chheras are Muslim haris or small khatedars.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

54. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to bring firewood, water, grass and cots to camps, to cleanse kitchen utensils and to do miscellaneous work under the orders of servants.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

55. According to an ancient custom they hold their lands on condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars. In some places this condition is insisted in the agreements taken from new haris. Consequently they cannot refuse to work as chheras at officers' camps.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from the officers of Government ?

56. They receive no payment from Government officers but they get food from their zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?

57. Chher is required as under :—

At the Mukhtiarkar's camp	10 chheras.
At the Deputy Collector's camp	20 „
At the Collector's camp	50 „
At the Commissioner's camp	100 „

These numbers are required when pitching and striking camps. On other occasions the number required is one fourth of the above.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. This has been answered above.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. This has been answered above.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. For water-fowl shooting, Mirbahar chheras are required. They get bakshish from officers. The men required for partridge shooting are also given bakshish.

61. Do they comes willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come willingly at the call of the zamindar who feeds them.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. There are beldars and malhis for roads, but as much of their time is spent in the services of the mukhtiarkar and the head munshi, chheras are employed at the time of officers' camps. They receive no payment.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Such roads only are repaired as lead to officers' camps. These repairs therefore are of limited benefit to the public. If public convenience were consulted, all other roads must be repaired also.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. They are fed by zamindars and get nothing else.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number required depends upon the size of the breach.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get nothing. They are only fed.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. It causes much loss during the cultivation season.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Such labour could be had in my neighbourhood on daily wages at 6 to 8 annas per day.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. It could be procured by a contractor provided full wages are paid.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF KHAN SAHEB DHANI BAKSH JATOI.

To the Chairman.—

The payments per jireb, are also called anagi; 2 or 3 anagi in my answer means one or two annas per jireb. At the time of canal breaches we supply chher to the Engineering Department. The chheras come willingly if they get paid, otherwise not.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

I think that chher of camps should be abolished altogetner. It would not work even if the chheras are paid. I think tapedars and zamindars ought to have nothing to do with rasai. If rasai is abolished the lapo will materially decrease.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

Chher should be given for breaches of canals but the chheras should be fully paid. They should do full work and should be fully paid. The present system of chheras is

preferable. It would ruin the rayat if the chher is levied under the Irrigation Act. I do call upon the officers for whom I make rasai. I met the Executive Engineer twice, at Mehar and Larkana, but not the Superintendeng Engineer. I have not made rasai for the P. W. D. this year.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah.-

It would be no trouble to officers to ride off 8 or 10 miles a day for inspection and remission work if they made camps at headquarters or some big villages.

To the Chairman.—

I have never personally made rasai for officers of the P. W. D. The rice harvest goes on until the 1st or 15th of December. It suffers a good deal on account of chher.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KISHINCHAND GULABSING GIDWANI.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Kishinchand Gulabsing Gidwani.

2. Appointment. — 2. Deputy Educational Inspector.

3. Head-quarters. — 3. Larkana.

4. Length of service. — 4. 18½ years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. Entire service in Sind

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour ? — 6. Larkana District

7. What is the period of your tour ? — 7. At least 8 months. It may go up nine or little more.

8. What private servants accompany you on tour ? — 8. A cook.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ? — 9. Generally two clerks and sometimes three, and three peons.

10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ? — 10. Generally food stuffs which are replenished from time to time at some central places and oil. Establishment.—Tea and oil and occasionally some food stuffs from some central places.

Peons—Nil.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ? — 11. Fuel and Milk.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ? — 12. Private—Nil. Official—camp tables, chairs, carpets, lamps, lanterns and kerosine oil.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ? — 13. Cots 9, Water jars 12.

14. What tents do you take on tour ? — 14. None.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ? — 15. Generally P. W. D. or District Bungalows. Where they are not available then tapedar's dero, musafarkhano or a private house.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ? — 16. No stables are required.

17. What records do you take on tour ? — 17. 6 Boxes including Magic lantern.

18. What arrangements are made for your office, at your various camps ? — 18. No separate arrangement for the office is required.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ? — 19. Nil.

23. What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? — 23. Baggage and riding camels are engaged for the whole period but sometimes they leave in summer when arrangements have to be made from place to place.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?

24. The post master of the Head-quarters despatches post at the camps. When the camp is away from the post office which is very rare the camel men or Taluka peons bring the post.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?

31. Cash payment or taking of services in kind which could be paid for.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?

32. Fuel 6 seers and milk one seer.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?

33. For two clerks—Rice ¾ of a seer, flour 1 seer, ghee 1½ pao., mutton ½ a seer, fuel 6 seers and milk 1½ seers

Peons, flour one seer each. Fuel 5 seers for all. Dal Rs. 0-0-6 each. Milk for each ½ pound.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jwari stalks and firewood ?

34. Flour Rs. 7½ to 8 a maund. Rice Rs. 11 a maund Milk 4 pice to 2 annas a seer. Fire wood 4 to 4½ annas a load of about 14 or 15 seers.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?

35. Generally there is no market value of milk and fuel in small villages.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?

36. 6 annas a day for local retail supplies exclusive of food stuffs. Ten annas a clerk, cost of all supplies purchased locally inclusive of foodstuffs, peons 3 annas a day each.

37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

37. Milk and fuel are arranged for by the masters and the remaining articles are purchased by the servants directly in the bazar.

38. How are they paid for ?

38. For fuel and milk through the master and for the rest through the servants ; in some cases milk and fuel generally are not paid for.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?

39. The masters are personally paid long after the camp leaves so that there is no chance for the money being returned. The things purchased from the market could never be obtained gratis.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

40. There is no difference. The bills are well scrutinized.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

43. Nothing for cots and water jars and no other furniture or materials are requisitioned.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

44. No.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?

45. Minimum official or private establishment is taken.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public sevice ?

46. No.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars ?

51. No.

NOTE.—Nos. 20 to 22, 25 to 30, 41 and 42, 47 to 50, 52 to 92, are not applicable.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. KISHINCHAND.

To The Chairman.

I don't get my supplies through official agency and I have no difficulty in getting supplies on tour. But I get some of the things through local masters and they are officials.

My camp leaves at night and I personally pay the masters next morning. Milk and fuel are obtained through the masters but other articles are purchased direct for cash.

I used to pay for water jars but I found it unnecessary. What happened was that they lent us the school jars or if they purchased new ones they retained them for school purposes.

I am not even aware of the rules of 1914. We could not give notice of our visits as we have to pay surprise visits to schools We don't get supplies either from tapedars or zamindars.

My clerks don't take any part in the inspection of schools. I think the clerks used to get payments from the masters but they don't get them now. There are ways in which clerks might favour school masters as for instance, keeping back information from a new Educational Inspector.

The untrained masters only get Rs. 11 to 15 pay but they could of course get presents from the parents of students. There is however no systematic levy.

I should say from my personal observation that tapedars though on low wages manage to build good houses and appear to be rich; for instance every master of mine would be glad to be a tapedar. So it is clear that tapedars must be supplementing their pay. I get numerous applications from masters for recommendations to Deputy Collectors for appointment as tapedars.

I remember one case in 1915 or 1916 in which one of my masters represented that he had no employment other than that of a cook on Rs. 4 and obtained a nomination to the Training College of tapedars at Hyderabad. He was however displaced on an anonymous application put in by disappointed rivals. I reported to the Deputy Collector that he was one of my masters.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

I should say anybody could get eggs and fowls on payment wherever I encamp. I don't personally use them but my assistant Mr. Abro uses them.

I visit not only villages where there are schools but other villages with a view to establishing schools or to inspect unregistered mulla schools so that my duties take me sometimes even to the smallest villages. I don't experience any difficulty in getting supplies.

To The Hon. Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

I use mutton when I can get it. I can get mutton in a village with a population of 500. In some villages mutton is available on some days but not on other days.

To Mr. Sawhney.

I don't encamp in villages where there are small schools but I ride off to such places.

I don't eat mutton every day. I eat it on most days. I have been with the Educational Inspector but he does not encamp in small villages.

For inspecting them he rides out and sometimes takes his breakfast with himself.

To Mr. Mehmud Shah.

I suppose in my last tour I must have visited about 30 villages where there were no schools. I have opened 12 new schools in villages in which there were no schools before.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF Mr. GURMUKHSING

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Gurmukhsing Jowharsing Butani
2. Appointment.	2. Overseer, P.W.D.
3. Head-quarters.	3. Larkana.
4. Length of service.	4. 14 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 14 years.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour ?	6. About 250 sq. miles.
7. What is the period of your tour ?	7. All round the year.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour ?	8. One servant.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ?	9. One clerk and two peons.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ?	10. Rice, flour, spices and ghi are taken by me. All others don't takeanything.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	11. I require milk, fuel, jars and grass. The others —Rice, flour, milk, fuel, ghi, jars and cots, also sometimes, mutton.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ?	12. Two chairs, two tables and one deck chair.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ?	13. Four cots, 8 jars.
14. What tents do you take on tour ?	14. Nil. I always occupy P.W.D. chowkeys.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ?	15. Nil.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ?	16. Nil.
17. What records do you take on tour ?	17. Only current year's record—say a camel trunk full.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ?	18. Nil.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	19. Nil.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ?	20. Fair.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?	21. Local Fund.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ?	22. No.

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters?

23. Horse and Camels which are engaged for the whole period.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?

24. I have a Government Postal runner.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. Naudero, Ghar Head, Tajodero, Ayo's village, Sukkur and Chousul.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. Nil.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?

27. All.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. The first two.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. All.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. One chowkidar at all of them. An extra bullockman at the first three and also a malhi at the first.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Rasai means ﻟﻮﺟﻲ to supply and may mean anything that is demanded in camp and supplied whether willingly or through fear of incurring displeasure.

I would however say that 'Rasai' is ﭘﻬﭽﻲ to reach. A man who does rasai reaches his purpose. You go to an officer. If you have done rasai with the peon, you are at once given due respect and announced to him. If you have done rasai with the cook or the butler you need not fear anything. He is always ready with an excuse for you before the officer in case there is any deficiency in the supplies. If you have done rasai with the clerks, there is always a good word before the officer in your favour.

32. What are you average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. A seer and half of milk, 10 seers fuel, 5 jars and two bundles of grass.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. The one private servant that goes with me, is also fed by me and his requirements are included above. My official establishment require one seer rice, one seer flour, two seers milk, ½ maund fuel, two chataks ghi, 3 jars and 3 cots.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari staiks and firewood?

34.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Grain i.e. flour	0	2	6
Rice	0	3	6
Eggs, fowls, sheep	0	0	0
Milk	0	3	6.
Butter (ghi)	0	2	6
Jowari stalks	0	3	0
Firewood	0	2	0
	1	1	0

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. For milk and stalks only.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. Re. 1.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

37. Mukudum of the department (P.W.D.).

38. How are they paid for ?

38. First day's supplies are not generally paid for—Then cash payments are made.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?

39. I have no particular guarantee but when anything is not paid for I generally get complaints.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

40. Two to one.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

41. Hari and cattle owners.

42. Is the excess met out of a ' Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

42. No such fund is maintained in my department

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

43. No.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

44 I get vegetables from P.W.D. gardens for which I pay Rs. 3 per year as fixed by my officers.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?

45. No.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public sevice ?

4 No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

47. As far as I can say, the rules of 1914 had had no effect.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?

48. No. (a.) As little establishment should be taken on tour as possible.

(b.) Camps may be made near bigger villages as far as possible and provisions purchased direct for cash.

(c.) Orders regarding officer's supplies may be given direct as far as possible if supplies have to be made by establishment.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

49 I don't get supplies through these agencies.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.

50 No. There are some local orders about stopping rasai.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars ?

51 Yes, vegetable and fruits only, but not any game as I am a vegetarian.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep ?

52. Rs. 10 in a year.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government ?

53. Orders are that vegetable and fruit may be accepted provided the value is small. No

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

54. 'Lapo' is something paid by the zamindar at the end of each crop to keep in the good books of the lower government official.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ?

55. One that is paid to a tapedar and the other that is paid to P.W.D. daroga and mukudum.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?

56. To tapedar and daroga, lapo is paid by zamindar but he makes up for that in taking something in kind at the time of batai. The mukudum is given something in kind at the time of batai. This is for conniving at trifle irregularities.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ?

57. The tapedar gets it per acre, per survey number or per assessment, practice varying in different parts. The daroga gets it per kario or khuhado.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ?

58. The tapedar pays a part of his lapo for rasai at the head quarter station. At the outside camps, rasai is generally made by the zamindar.

There is no fund for rasai in the P. W. D. But the deficiency in payment is made up by the daroga and the mukudam.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund ?

59. There is no such fund in the P. W. D. In the Revenue the fund is managed by the head munshi or the supervising tapedar.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ?

60 I cannot say about other departments. But in P. W. D. something in cash is paid to the private and official and menial establishment of officers by the daroga and the mukadum.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

61. Lapo is not for any particular favour.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ?

62. Amounts are fixed for the establishment of various officers which are met with from the Rasai Fund. In the P. W. D. there is nothing fixed like that. But at the time of examination of records particular hospitality is shown towards the inspecting staff.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ?

63. No.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ?

65. The tapedars' pay should be increased—the minimum being Rs. 50. He may be a man with English education say, at least a matriculate and may be on the same lines as the revenue clerks who can, after passing Revenue examinations, rise to be mukhtiarkars and deputy collectors.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?

66. Chher is labour without payment, sometimes willing, sometimes forced.

67. Who are the 'Chheras" ?	67. Haris.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?	68. Clear camping grounds, pitch tents, load and unload camels, and assist in shikaring.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?	69. The condition is more or less implied.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?	70. They are generally fed by their zamindars during the time they work as 'cheras.'
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?	71. Excepting at sowing and harvest time, labour could be had in plenty.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?	72. A few beldars are always maintained by Government. In Abkalani their number is increased.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?	73. They are not bound excepting under very emergent circumstances. But they do supply whenever asked.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?	74. No.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ?	75. I don't require any labour while on tour.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?	76. None.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp	77. None.
78. Whence do you obtain them ?	78. No answer
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?	79. Ditto.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?	80. Ditto.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?	81. Ditto.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?	82. I don't do any shikaring.
83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ?	83. No answer.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?	84. Ditto.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?	85. Ditto.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ?	86. Ditto.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?	87. Men and sometimes donkeys and carts.

88. If the zamindar likes that Government should not pay, he feeds the men and is generally recommended for a reward. But if he does not find the men, the 'cheras' are either fed or paid in cash by Government.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

89. Generally there is no interference as 'cheras' work only for a day or two. On the other hand, 'cheras' are generally interested in closing breaches as they damage their crop.

90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work, under the Local Boards ?

90. Their number would not be enough to do anything.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

92. Cher should be suppressed excepting when wanted for public safety, say for closing a breach or stopping floods. Bnt payment should always be made in cash. It is often necessary to make feeding arrangements for the 'cheras'; in that case the costof feeding should be deducted from the ordinary daily wages.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. GURMUKHSING.

To The Chairman.

I am Sub-Divisional Officer of the Ghar Canals.

To The Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—The daroghas and muccadams of the department have dealings with the maldars. They could allow maldars to graze on the canal banks if supervision was slack.

There is no regular grazing allowed on payment of fees as in the Forest Department. The daroghas and muccadams would probably get paid for allowing illegal grazing.

To The Chairman.

There is such illegal grazing but not to a very large extent.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

Daroghas make rasai of the Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineer and S. D. O. There are no payments for milk, grass and fuel : other things are paid for. They are paid for at the customary rates. Sometimes they would be less than the market rates. I don't think any payments are made to the munshis, but they are made to the menial establishments. If the darogha allows illegal grazing he would get butter, milk and kids free from the maldars.

He has also relations with the zamindars. He could favour the zamindars in the matter of supply of water. He might for instance connive at improper enlargement of the karia. He might also cause harm by reporting a khuhada to be in bad condition and decreasing the flow of water in the canal.

Sometimes the darogha gets money for these purposes from the zamindars. It is from these sources that the darogha recoups himself for what he spends from his own pocket on account of rasai.

To The Chairman.

Sometimes the payments are made at the rate of 10% on contracts by the contractors to the subordinate staff of the department.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

It is a sort of customary payment for which probably they make allowances when putting in tenders. They could not get any other advantage owing to strictness of supervision. Maldars are generally haris of zamindars. I have sometimes seen rasai given to revenue officers.

Roads are sometimes specially repaired for the high officials of the Revenue Department.

To The Chairman.

The roads are not in charge of the P.W.D. They are not very well kept up by the taluka Local Boards.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

I think the circular of 1914 was circulated to us. It was not acted upon. I think the officers found it unworkable in any department.

To The Chairman.

If the darogha did not make presents to butlers and cooks the latter might get him into trouble.

To The Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

The clerks and all establishments would trouble the darogha if they were not fed the first day. It is the ordinary form of rasai. Cash payments are not made to the clerks. The darogha levies rupees one or two per karia and the same rate per khuhada where there is such a custom prevailing. This custom does not prevail throughout this district. It does prevail in some parts of the district. I have also served in the Karachi, Sukkur and Begari canals. I was for a short time only on the Begari so I don't know much about it. The levy is prevalent in some parts of the Sukkur as well as the Karachi districts. The higher officers of the department do not all know about the 10% given by the contractors.

To Mr. Sawhney.

The higher officials, could not have any personal knowledge of the 10 %. The Sub Divisional officers might share in the 10%. The rest would be distributed amongst the subordinate staff. The S. D. O. might stop the payments but they could not stop them all over the district. Whereas if they stopped taking themselves the payment would be very much less than 10%. It would vary from 1 to 5%. Generally the bigger zamindars refuse to pay the daroghas. The daroghas are not very rich men. They could not save much. They spend what they make, They generally remain in their appointments. That is my personal experience wherever I have served. It is not in the hands of the darogha to allow enlargement of the karia. The S. D. O. tours throughout the year round the sub-division. It is not a fact that the chief duty of the S. D. O. is to check the karias—at times he would do it. If there is a dangerous khuhada it might cause a breach in the canal. It would not be oppressive to report in case of dangerous khuhadas. Even if there were no camp in his beat the darogha would take his customary fees from the zamindar. He could not say to the zamindar that he was taking it for making rasai.

It is one of the chief duties of daroghas and muccadams to see that trees are looked after and to see that they are not cut or lopped The trees are useful for closing canal breaches and the general appearance of the canals. The daroghas submit challans when the cattle are sent to the pound. If there was no challan but there was damage to the trees, the darogha would at once be suspected and punished.

The darogha might make rasai presents of Rs. 10 to 12 to the whole establishment of the touring office. The establishment would not get anything at the second visit. If they got it it would be less.

My records are inspected by the accountant and the Exg. Engineer's records are inspected by the Accountant General and the Superintending Engineer. At that time the inspecting establishments are treated with hospitality. Executive Engineer's accounts are inspected at Head quarters which are always at big towns.

The S. D. O. is not connected directly with their inspections nor has he any connection with the inspecting staff of the Accountant General.

I mean that chheras should have daily wages if they do a day's work.

I referred to the menial staff when I said that the first day's supplies are not paid for. It is in the case of each visit to that particular camp.

To Mr. Mehmud Shah.

If the contractor raises his tender by 10% the loss falls on Government.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF Mr. SHAH MUHAMMAD DUR MUHAMMAD LAHORI.

1. Name.	1. Mr. Shah Muhammad Dur Muhammad Lahori.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindar.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. Individually about Rs. 6,000 apart from members of my family whom I represent.
4. Residence.	4. Larkana town, Lahori quarter.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. Vice-President, District Local Board. Chairman, Managing Committee, Municipality. Chairman, Hon. Magistrates' Bench A.
	Rasai.
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. "Rasai" is derived from the word 'Rasad' which signifies the supplies of food stuffs and other necessaries, made for all the touring officials of almost all the departments in Sind during their tour.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. Twelve years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. & 9. I live in the district head-quarters, hence make no rasai. Nor do I attend any officer's camp in my zemindari or near it. Of course there are certain places like Pukho, Rashid Wagan, and Arija, where officers of all the departments excepting those of the Judicial and Forest Departments encamp.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. Butter, fuel, milk, grass, chickens.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. All those things are extracted from the khatedars of my "Raj" and other people living near Public Works Department canal bank, and are partly contributed by my kamdars.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars.	12. Whatever little my kamdars supply, is paid at my own cost and purchased from the village people.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates?	13. Butter 0-6-0 per lb. Fuel from my own trees on the bank of private karias and lands. Milk free from haris. Chickens at the rate of 0-5-0 each.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. They are so nearly at the same rate in villages as in town.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. Already replied.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. My kamdars also do not make, direct rasai, but tapedars and supervising tapedars do it, hence have no personal experience. However, I think it is left to the discretion of the butlers, how much they want to spend and save for their own purpose.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. It is all done by the tapedars and supervising tapedars.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

18. Tapedars, no doubt, collect all sorts of things for these people too; but it is best known to tapedars and those zamindars who make direct rasai.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. Tapedars do collect for them.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. It is best known to tapedars and those zamindars who supply directly.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?

21. Cots are collected and things arranged for the lodging of the menials and the clerical establishment.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. Best known to tapedars and those who do direct rasai.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. No payment is made to any kamdar or khatedar and if at all made, it is always made from the officer himself, but the tapedars keep it for themselves or give to the butler and the peons.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. Already replied.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Private houses are arranged in the villages by the tapedars for munshis.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. It costs nothing, hence no payment is made.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Carriages and camels are engaged by the tapedars from the general rasai fund. For carts they compel people forcibly for carrying luggage to the camp.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. Cartmen get 2 annas mileage, but it is generally pocketed away by the peons and not paid to the cartmen.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, Public Works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Mukhtiardar himself is the master of the rasai fund, but obligatory hospitality is shown to him even by small zamindars just to keep him well pleased.

P. W. D. officials' rasai is made and collected by daroghas from all sluice owners of the engineering canals and from people grazing cattle within bund limits or canal banks and also from those persons whose cattle drink water from canals and sit at nights in water in the hot mosquito season. Police rasai is always made whenever police officers go out for investigations. It is a notorious fact that the whole village is oppressed, people beaten and maltreated. All sorts of food stuffs, grass, and grain for horses are immediately brought by all people of the villages and it is left to the discretion of the sub-inspector to accept the degraded hospitality of people, who feel highly favoured and honoured if able to escape their torments by these means. From that rasai, grain for horses and certain other things are carried back to thana, where they are reserved for future use.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. Whenever my kamdar feeds a police officer, he charges him nothing. It costs according to the number of men the police officer takes with him.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. I do not do any thing direct and my kamdars do very little. It therefore costs me nominally. I have always been trying my utmost to stop the evil of rasai. I once collected documentary evidence against two tapedars and reported the matter to the Assistant Collector who dismissed both of them. After that instance, these people do not demand much from my kamdars.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. Rasai is generally made by the tapedars direct but where there are big zemindars they make rasai themselves.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. Reply already given.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. Zamindars and contractors are two different and opposite businesses of life, and generally respectable zamindars do not like to be called contractors. All arrangement independent of zamindars and tapedars is of course essential.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. I think there can be no difficulty to find the contractor for every taluka if he is paid a little extra for the inconvenience he will have to incur for carrying and arranging things from one place to another.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. My first objection against rasai is that all the officials draw their salaries from the Government, hence they have no right to extract rasai from people to get lot of commodities of life by these unfair means. By so doing they oppress the innocent agriculturists who are already overburdened in many ways. The whole burden of rasai falls upon moslem agriculturists, which is poor and uneducated class and fond of keeping all the officials well pleased with them.

An independent contractor should be appointed, who should be a Hindu or Muslim but non-agriculturist. Tapedars or zamindars should have nothing to do with the rasai. Private zaildars should be appointed to receive assessment from people, and credit it to the Sub-Treasury. A small committee of independent non-officials should be appointed every year after the completion of the recoveries to enquire how far this system is successfully carried out, and whether lapo is stopped and no rasai made.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Yes. It is customary and does not affect the zamindars much. It is generally heard that the P. W. D. contractors give whiskies and wines to officials in dalis but I am sure that Revenue or Police Sahibs do not receive such dalis from zamindars.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. If simple fruits are accepted, the practice may be allowed to continue.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo is derived from the word Lap which means handful. An annuity from a zamindar paid to hari, or a menial of officer is called lapo.

Almost all the subordinate officials of all the departmens receive lapo from the zemindars. Lapo paid to tapedar is called anaki and it varies from one anna to three annas per jireb. Constables, beat head-constables and some Sub-Inspectors receive it in a lump sum but they do not receive it in the form of lapo. Daroghas and mucaddams receive lapo in the days of batai.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Already replied.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Already replied.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Generally the zamindars make rasai as well as they pay lapo. Tapedars receive lapo which is called anaki in this country for their own gain and for giving annuities in higher offices.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Generally the annuities are paid by the tapedars from the anaki fund and they make the money presents to all the higher offices.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. Already replied.

46. Subordinate officials are the right arms of the Mukhtiarkars, P.W.D. Officers and Police Officers. Zemindars suffer land revenue and in police matters they lose the control of their raj and are troubled in getting a regular supply of water from P.W.D., if they do not try to please them and pay them their demands.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Already replied.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. Generally all the departmental subordinates avoid troubling me for lapo for the reasons already stated.

49. Anaki has, on the contrary, been on an increase every year. As necessaries of life go on becoming dearer and dearer, anaki is also increasing with progressive speed but the last two camps of the Commissioner in Sind at Larkana were exemplary to stop rasai for the officials, but after 1914 circular I tried my utmost by preaching in the mufassil, the evils of rasai and Government, anxiety to stop it, but I find that it is still on increase.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. Mukhtiarkars are chief party to these collections and keep the general fund in sound finances.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Committees of non-officials should be formed after the recovery of assessments, and should enquire into the conduct of these officials till the evil is stopped and other suggestions have been already made.

Chher.

52. Chher or Begar means unpaid or free labour performed by haris or small khatedars to attend official camps, to pitch tents and carry the camp luggage from one place to another.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Chheras are haries or small khatedars.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. Already replied.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. It is a custom that the haris should not refuse the chher of zemindars whenever required.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. No payment is made by the officials.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

57 & 58. I have no personal experience but I think this is also left to the discretion of the peons, how many chheras they require.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?

59. Nothing.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?

60. No personal experience but the more the merrier.

61. Do they comes willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. Generally officers offer to pay the beaters of shikars, but zemindars do not allow them to accept anything, simply to please the officials and as chheras are bound with the zemindars their willingness is out of question.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. Some times at three days notice, a long and rough road is ordered to be put in repairs for an official's camp, and thousands of people are engaged freely by the zemindars.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Of course after the road is repaired, people give blessings to that officers for whose sake it was done.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ?

64. Nothing. Only the zemindars give them meals.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. As many as possible.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. P. W. D. officers do offer them low wages, but the zemindars do not allow them to accept anything on the hope of getting good lungi in the durbar through the Sub-Divisional Officer.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?

67. To some extent.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?

68. It is every where available.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?

69. Of course in every season.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?

70. Chheras, if engaged, should be paid to the extent of their labour. The Begar system of police and other departments should be discouraged and stopped. Constables, tapedars or kotars catch carts forcibly for their own purposes, and do not care whether the poor cartman is going for some immediate work of his. The poor man cannot help refusing them even he may be going to take his family for attending fixed ceremony among his relations. This compulsion and forced labour ought to be stopped.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF SERAI SHAH MAHOMED LAHORI.

To The Chairman. —

Saildars are persons in the Punjab who still collect assessment.

I have no personal experience of cases in which wines or whiskies have been given to officers of the Public Works Department. I have not personally given dalis to the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Executive Engineer. I have heard from contractors that they sometimes pay 10% on contract work for the Public Works Department.

I never make rasai, as I live in Larkana where no rasai has to be made. I speak from what my kamdars and khatedars have told me about camps within my zamindari outside Larkana.

I have not heard of officers giving presents to the chheras employed in their camps. I don't object to the chheras if they are paid at proper rates for the work they actually do. It is customary that a great many more men are sent as chher than are really wanted.

To The Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

The rice crop is harvested from October to the middle of December. Thereafter there is rabi on rice land and also the ordinary rabi cultivation. They also plough the lands in winter. They plough the whole of January. They are generally free in February. They have to harvest rabi in March and April. The employment of chheras during the months of November and December in the camp of touring officers interferes with their work. It interferes more in November than in December.

In almost all the investigations of big cases of dacoity and murder, ill-treatment of villagers by the police occurs. It includes pulling their beards, actual beating and also insults.

To The Chairman.—

There is no objection to the Collector's touring except on account of rasai. I think it necessary for the Collector to go out to the taluka head-quarters, but not necessary to go to small villages.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

The 10% paid by the contractors of the Public Works Department is in order to please the department who are accordingly not likely to object in the matter of measurements and to refuse them general favours.

The rate of anagi has increased; as things get dearer, a higher rate of anagi is levied. The anagi levied now is 2½ as. and even a pice more per jireb. It was originally one anna; hence it is called anagi. It has been steadily increasing every year.

To the Chairman.—

The Circular of 1914 had no particular effect but endeavours were made. But it proved a failure in stopping rasai in Larkana. Rasai is the same since 1914 but anagi has increased.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

The supplies provided by the zamindars are not paid for. The supplies are collected through the tapedar and supervising tapedar.

If rasai is handed over to independent contractors lapo will gradually decrease—it might cease in a year or two, if not in the first year.

If zamindars don't go to officers' camps in villages, the officer would get displeased with the zamindar. I mean if they do not attend at the camp and do rasai. Making rasai is one of the things which please the officers but it is not the only thing for which they get recommendations for honours.

Education is required more than abolition of the system of chairs to make rasai cease. I am not in favour of abolition of the system of holding chairs, not till education comes and all people become educated. Without education I find zamindars have very little self respect.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

More haris are required for kharif cultivation than rabi. So the balance would be available for other work after the kharif crop is harvested. After the kharif cultivation some haris take work under the Public Works Department contractors. They go voluntarily as they often get good wages. I have never myself taken up a contract from the Public Works Department such as canal clearance. The big zamindars generally object to taking up contracts so I have no personal experience of favours and disfavours which can be shown by the Engineering Department.

To Mr. Mahmudshah. –

I am 29 years old. Larkana has been notorious for dacoities—it is next to Thar and Parkar in that respect. I have personally watched the investigations of dacoities in 2 or 3 cases. I was personally present at the investigation of a dacoity about 3 or 4 years ago and a murder in the Dokri ta'uka in which khosos were suspected about 12 years ago. I have not been present at the investigation of other offences. I did see some one's beard pulled on all the 3 occasions.

The zamindars refused to co-operate with me in the matter of the suppression of rasai through fear of the tapedar and supervising tapedar I could not give the names of persons whose beards were pulled during the police enquiries.

To the Chairman.—

I don't think that zamindars are paid for any of the supplies. The supplies are collected by the tapedar and supervising tapedar. It is in addition to the supplies that lapo is paid by the zamindar.

I say that if rasai were stopped lapo would cease because rasai includes cash payments which are made in part from lapo. I could not say what is the proportion which such cash payments bear to the lapo. I have heard of cash payments levied from the zamindars in addition to lapo but my kamdars don't make such payments. My kamdars pay lapo. I have not been able to practice what I preach because I see that I will be troubled if I don't pay lapo.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HIRANAND JANJIMAL.

1. Name.	1. Hiranand Janjimal.
2. Appointment.	2. Mukhtiarkar.
3. Headquarters.	3. Larkana.
4. Length of service	4. 17 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 17 years out of which 4 years as a Mukhtiarkar, and the rest from the last munshi to the Collector's Head Munshi's appointment.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge ?	6. Taluka Larkana, consisting of 218. 12 square miles.
7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps ?	7. Mutton, milk, fuel, butter, eggs fowls, vegetables grass, sugar, potatoes, jars, cots, fish.
8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps ?	8. (1) 25 to 50 cots, (2) 30 to 60 jars.
9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments ?	9. Tapedars' deras, and private houses, and landhis, (landhis prepared at that time).
10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps ?	10. These stables are prepared by the tapedars through the help of the zamindars at the camps for the horses and syces.
11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps ?	11. None. The office is held in the tents and outhouses of the Bungalows.
12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps ?	12. Zamindari men and some times beldars and kotwars and carts, but cartmen are paid for.
13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ?	13. Not very satisfactory. This year the roads have been put in thorough order as special grants were sanctoned for them.
14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?	14. The Taluka Local Board is responsible and the work is carried on through the Local Fund beldars.
15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps ?	15. Ordinarily special repairs are not required to be done. The zamindari help is taken to put the roads in thorough order with the help of their haris when the roads are not in decent order.
16. What are their means of transport ? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters ?	16. Generally baggage camels and sometimes bullock carts and riding camels. They keep camels generally for the whole period of touring season.
17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?	17. Generally the tapedars' kotars and sometimes zamindari people and in very urgent cases when horses are not available, tum tums are engaged for the postal arrangements.
18. What are the usual camping places in your charge ?	18. For the Assistant Collector, almost in every tapa, and for the Collector, Rashid Wagan, Dhamraha, Khalid, Biro Chandio, Kehar.
19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?	19. Generally the zamindari chher and in rare cases the Local Fund beldars are engaged for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ?

20. Almost all are within the reach of villages with bania shops or bazar.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?

21. None.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows ?

22. Ratokote, Rashi Wagan, Kanga, Biro Chandio are provided with musafirkhanas and Khalid with a bungalow of the Public Works Department.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?

23. One chowkidar is maintained at each musafirkhana and bungalow.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?

24. Rasai means procuring supplies for the touring officer without or on less payments.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies ?

25. Eggs half to one dozen daily, fowls 1 to 2, butter one fourth of a seer, mutton half a seer, milk one to four seers, grass 4 to 10 bundles, palal one bundle, fuel 2 maunds.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment ?

26. Milk 30 seers, mutton 15 seers at least, fire wood 30 maunds at least, eggs 2 dozen daily, fowls 2 to 5, butter 2 seers, vegetables worth 8 annas to 14 annas, excluding other things which are purchased from the shops. It may be said that much wastage is caused by menials and servants. This includes the requirements both of private and official establishments.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?

27. The average prices are as follows :—

Grain (flour) 7 rupees per maund.
Rice 10 „ „
Eggs 6 annas to 9 annas per dozen.
Fowls 6 to 10 annas each.
Sheep 10 to 15 rupees each.
Milk 2 annas per seer.
Butter 3 to 5 paos per rupee.
Firewood { (At Larkana) 12 annas per maund. (in mofussil) 6 annas per maund.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?

28. Yes.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment ?

29. From 15 to 25 rupees per day plus Rs. 10 for other things purchased from shops.

30. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

30. The requirements are met by village establishment through the assistance of zamindars and they are collected and brought to the camp by the village establishment.

31. How are they paid for?

31. As a practice nothing is paid for these things by servants and menials and office establishment excepting some of the officers. The articles brought direct from the shops are sometimes paid for by them direct to the bania.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp ?

32. Since the payments on these things are not made by the menials or the office establishment, nothing is paid to actual providers ; but in few cases the expenses are borne by tapedars. There is no guarantee that the payments made by the officers reach the actual providers. It may be that the amounts paid by the officers may have been repaid to their butlers or their servants.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

33. So far as the officers are concerned, the nominal bill is paid for. It is much less than the actual cost of the supplies. Others do not pay at all.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

34. Yes, the excess is borne by tapedars except in cases where the zamindars show willingness to pay.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

35. Yes. At the head quarters from the general Rasai Fund and at the mufassil from the lapo collected by the tapadars.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

36. None at all.

37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

37. There are no gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds in this taluka. The vegetables are given, as a practice, without payment.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effectto the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

38. Practically none. The tapedars have not ceased to collect the supplies and as a matter of fact they are provided by the zamindars.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?

39. The only thing my experience suggests is that it all depends on the officers and secondly, at headquarters, or in big villages, where the necessaries can be had on payment from the bazars, the village establishment or the zamindars should have absolutely no hand in the matter. It will not be possible to find an independent contractor for the purpose. From my point of view, all the eatables, say for instance, flour, ghee, rice, spices etc. should be taken by the touring establishments with themselves, as I do in my case. At any rate, I would not like to have hand of the tapedar or zamindar in the matter. *Vide* note.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

40. No intimation of their requirements but of their camps.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ?

41. No significant change has been made in the working of rules of 1914.

42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ?

42. "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits are sometimes given to officers who accept them. In general dhalis of vegetables are often given to them. No other present of game or sheep.

43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained ?

43. If there are no Local Fund gardens in the taluka, then the vegetables and fruits are purchased from the big towns and the average cost is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 for touring officers plus Rs. 10 for the establishment.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject ?

44. The orders are not to offer them, but the practice prevails throughout.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

45. The term lapo means anaki, which means, the tapedars at the time of kharif and rabi instalments recover money from the zamindars illegally on a scale varying in some districts to meet the expenses of rasai to some extent as well as to fill in their pockets,

46. To my knowledge, so far the Revenue Department is concerned there is only one. Other departments have also arrangements for rasai.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

47. The lapo is levied by tapedars from land holders for rasai as well as for filling in their pockets.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

48. The lapo varies from two pice to two annas per jireb, sometimes it goes on the amount of assessment which a land holder pays at the rate of 5 to 10% and in some districts it goes on survey numbers, 1 to 2 Rs. for each survey number.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

49. $\frac{2}{3}$th of the lapo is utilized to cover the cost of rasai and for that purpose it is converted into a rasai fund.

50. The rasai fund is managed by a supervising tapadar or a tapedar with the assistance of two or three other trustworthy tapedars. In some districts it is either managed by Head Munshi or the Mukhtiarkar.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. $\frac{1}{3}$th of the lapo is utilized for money presents to the private or official establishment of touring officers. Generally each munshi is given one month's pay, but Head Munshis generally get much more.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for praticular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

52. Tapedars take for ijazatnamas issued to khatedars and for lands and brick kilns. To me this kind of levy cannot be called a lapo but more or less it is corruption.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. They can make a snake out of a rope, as it goes to say in Sindhi, if they are not paid; otherwise they are a bit lenient in their remarks at the time of the inspection.

54. Rasai and lapo generally go hand in hand. If rasai is stopped, the lapo is bound to decrease at least. The rules of 1914 have practically made no effect except in so far that it is not exacted by force as was done before.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

55. None.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

56. Vide answer to question No. 63.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

57. Cher means zamindari labour procured at the time of the officers' camp and for closing breaches or repairing roads.

58. Who are the 'Chheras'?

58. Cheras are men supplied by zamindars for the above purposes.

59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

59. Vide answer to question Nos. 66 and 75.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

60. To my knowledge no such condition exists between the zamindars and haris.

61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?

61. The cheras do not receive any remuneration but they are fed by the zamindars for the time they are on that work.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

62. Paid labour is available in my charge but in small villages the intervention of zamindars is necessary in procuring it.

63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government?

63. The beldars are maintained out of Local Funds for the repairs of the roads but the number is inadequate.

64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

64. They are not bound to supply labour but they have been providing labour when demanded by officials.

65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

65. Not to my knowledge. Seri grants are given in some cases.

66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour?

66. To fetch water. To pitch and unpitch tents. To remove official and private kit. Other miscellaneous work.

67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?

67. 15 to 20.

68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?

68. 10 to 20 more.

69. Whence do they obtain them?

69. From zamindars.

70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

70. Nothing is paid but they are fed by the zamindars if they remain long in the camp.

71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor?

71. 4 to 6 annas per labourer. I do not think.

72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?

72. Through the zamindars.

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?

73. Some officers do pay as baksish in lump sums to the labourers. I do not think there is any difficulty.

74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

74. Food only.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

75. Zamindars where any special repairs to the roads are required are asked to supply their haris.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?

76. Nothing by me but they are fed by the zamindars.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

77. Zamindari labour.

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindar or by Government?

78. In some cases some of the labourers are paid by the Public Works Department and others are not paid for.

79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

79. Not to much extent.

80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

80. At head quarters it interferes with their ordinary work to a little extent.

81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher" or local oders?

81. None.

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

82. It should be suppressed and a sufficient number of khalasies be allowed to the touring officers' camps.

Note.

Lapo and rasai though go hand in hand as said above yet the money presents (annuities) do not seem to form part of the rasai. I think it is a form of corruption though they are paid from the general rasai fund.

The total amount of the lapo recovered per year so far as this taluka is concerned is approximately as follows :—

Rs. 9,000; out of this Rs. 2,000 go to the rasai fund and Rs. 1,000 to the annuities and the rest Rs. 6,000 go to the tapadars. From my experience of other talukas it may be pointed out that the rasai expenses sometimes come to Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 per year plus 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 of annuities. There is a saying in Sindhi that oil will come out of seeds. So some of the zamindars who provide supplies for touring officers take the same from their haris who are often the victims. In some talukas there is a practice that deh kharch is recovered from land holders under the management of one big zamindar. This goes to the rasai from which the private expenses of the zamindar are also incurred.

It is an admitted fact that the Revenue Department has lost all its importance which it had before and is being attacked all round on account of rasai but the fact seems to have been lost sight of that the other departments such as Encumbered Estate, Civil Department, Sanitary and Veterinary and Army Remount, Land Records, and Agricultural, Educational Department (the latter so far as very few officers are concerned) are also sharers in the general Rasai Fund of the Revenue Department.

In one taluka, I was the Mukhtiarkar. Under the strict orders of the then Collector I resolved to put a stop to the rasai. The Sub Divisional Officer had to encamp in a village of my taluka for 3 or 4 days according to the programme. I also got my tents pitched up in the camp near my officer. I became very strict upon rasai so much so that the establishment was given a clear understanding that nothing will be given to them as gratis. Even the officer's butler could not get a single pie. The establishment became sick of me. They passed one day there but on the next day, to my surprise I was told that the Sub Divisional Officer wanted to shift the camp at once and go to other taluka. The impression conveyed to me was that he got annoyed with me on putting a stop to the rasai. I cannot say how far this was true that atany rate the office establishment went displeased with me so much so that I used to get dabnamas. On that camp for one day, so far I remember, the total expenses of the whole establishment came to about 3-12-0 instead of Rs. 20.

In my opinion the following measures should be adopted to stop the rasai and lapo:

(1) The most important thing is that it all depends upon officers.

(2) In large villages where necessaries can be had on payment, the camps should be held there. In those villages and at headquarters the tapedars and zamindars should have absolutely no hand in the rasai matter.

(3) An independent contractor, if possible, be appointed on fixed pay, the expenses to be borne by Government, with conveyance allowance.

(4) The mistakes excepting misappropriation of Government money need not be taken into consideration at the time of the inspection.

(5). Any Mukhtiarkar who proves a success in putting a stop to the rasai and lapo should be given promotion irrespective of his seniority, as an encouragement.

(6). The number of the present tapas should be reduced so that the tapedars should have light charges of less income.

Police.

Zulum is again caused in rasai of the police. Tapedars of course will request the zamindars to supply eggs etc.; but the police instead of requesting them will at once fall upon haris and get their supplies with police zabardasti. In one taluka I was the Mukhtiarkar where I came across with oneinstance in which one sethia, a respectable man, had either refused to make rasai or refused to give tum tum to the Sub Inspector for the Inspector; the Sub Inspector remained silent for some time but felt very much. After a few days there came one fictitious application in the name of that sethia's wife complaining against her husband, (that sethia) of illtreatment and intimacy with the women. The petition came to the Sub Inspector from the District Superintendent Police and the same Sub Inspector issued the summons to that sethia's wife to appear before him in the Police thana. The sethia on receipt of the summons got frightened and ran to my camp. It was said that the application was made at the instigation of the Sub Inspector. I advised the man to go and see the District Superintendent of Police So far I remember, that sethia took one pleader, a member of the Bar association, to the District Superintendent of Police, whom the facts were explained. The application was then sent for by the District Superintendent of Police and was filed. There is saying in Sindhi that "if a man is bitten by a dog, he will get kicks with shoes in addition." That case appears to be in the police. It is an open secret that when any report about the commission of an offence is made to the police, the aggrieved man must prepare himself in advance to provide luxuries for the police who happen to visit sarzaman for an investigation. If he fails in doing so he must be prepared for the worst.

Forest.

It is an open secret that the forest guards never receive their legitimate pay. It goes to the pockets of sub rangers who make arrangements for the rasai of their superiors. The forest guards again find in maldars their best supporters.

Irrigation.

The percentage of the Public Works Department at the rate of 10% is well known. The daroga gets Rs. 2 per nar and mukadum Re. 1 as lapo. They bear the expenses of the touring season. If they do not get they generally impound the cattle passing on a bund or grazing on the banks of canals.

Rules about the Motor Vehicles along the Larkana and Kamber Road.

The rules are published in the *Sind Official Gazette* page 1395 dated 15th November 1917.

2. Some persons of the Larkana town intend plying motor vehicles along the road for hire. It is said that these persons had presented a petition to the D. M. Larkana for the license. They have not yet bought the motor car.

3. The road is not quite fit for motor drives at present. There is a proposal that the road should be metalled, but this requires a large amount of money which has not yet been made available. It is not known whether the grant will be sanctioned this year.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HIRANAND, MUKHTIARKAR.

To the Chairman :

I mean by grass, juwari stalks. The palal is required for the bedding of horses and also for putting under the carpets of tents.

The camel-men and peons in winter keep fires burning all night—hence the extravagant use of firewood. We supply wood from Larkana. We get it from the bazar and some times from the zamindars.

There are no local fund gardens but a municipal garden at Larkhana. There are private gardens at Larkana in which English vegetables can be obtained. Dhalis are obtained at Larkana.

There is a regular camping ground at Larkana which is put in order by the local fund beldars before the arrival of touring officers. I have only been for 12 months in Larkana. Rasai is made for all officers who come from outside Larkana. Everything can be had at Larkana. But the tapadar would bring eggs, milk, wood, fowls and karbi for the camps of provincial officers such as the Judicial Commissioner and the Commissioner. I think such supplies as meat would be bought by their servants from the bazar. Eggs and fowls are brought to the bazar and sold in the bazar of Larkana, and karbi and fuel also can be had from the Larkana bazar ; also milk. The bill is presented by the tapadar at the end of the camps.

The seri grants are free grants of lands given generally for service already rendered, but we certify every year that the holder continues to render service to Government ; but there are no seri grants for definite service to be rendered in the future by the holder to Government. These grants are of 5 to 10 acres. 5-10 acres is the average grant ; it might be some times more. The profits from such grants would be about Rs. 50 a year.

Some officers give the chheras a present when leaving the camp and some do not.

I do not mean that chher should not be supplied in the case of breaches of canal banks

I have no personal experience about other departments. What I say generally about the other departments *viz* Police, Educational and Forest and others, is derived from general talk.

This is the bill of the last Collector's camp in Larkana at the time of the visit of the Commissioner. The Collector makes his own arrangements when he is at Head quarters at all times, but rasai is made for the Collector also while the Commissioner's camp is at Larkana.

There is a good deal of traffic of tongas and bullock carts on the Larkana Kambar road. It is not a metalled road beyond half a mile from Larkana. Beldars are maintained for its repairs. This year considerable sums were sanctioned for its repairs, Rs. 9,000 for earth work and Rs. 10,000 for grass. It was under water last abkalani. Proposals are under consideration for metalling this and some other roads in the Larkana district.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai:

Rice cultivation begins in the end of June and July and ends in the middle of December. After that comes threshing. It is finished by the end of December. The rabi cultivation begins at the end of December and January. The rabi is reaped at the end of March and the beginning of April. There is also what is called dubari cultivation in kharif land which begins in the middle of October and ends about the middle of March or April. The crop is sown before the kharif crop is reaped.

I do not know of any Asst. Collector's camps near Larkana but there was one at Valid to which he came from Biro Chandio and which is one mile and half from Larkana. He came about 4 or 5 miles distance from Biro Chandio. I believe he came there on account of remission work.

To the Chairman;

The average march of an Asst. Collector is 6 or 10 miles. I have been only 12 months in this district; I was before that in the Sukkur district. There the average march of the Asst. Collector would be about 6 to 10 miles and of the Collr. 8 to 10 miles.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai:

I believe bogus receipts are sometimes passed in favour of officers' establishments without any actual payments being made by those establishments. I believe in some cases the bills of establishments and officers' are under charged. The bills are prepared in consultation with the butlers.

To the Chairman:

The butlers generally order more than is required by their masters. Butlers don't want entries to appear in the bills for things which have not been ordered by the masters;

hence the necessity of consulting the butler. The excess is probably used by the butler and other servants. Those items would not appear in the bills.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai:

I don't think that less than what is actually consumed by the officers is entered in the bills. I don't think that fowls and eggs are dearer in villages than in towns. An egg is worth about 2 pice in the village.

I never personally saw ill treatment of tapadars and zamindars but complaints of illtreatment by butlers and menials have been made to me by the tapadars and zamindars.

The general impression among the mukhtiarkars is that those who make the best rasai get the best promotions.

I have made my remarks on other departments as the rules of 1914 relate to all those departments.

I heard of these departments in my talk with the Raj Mahajan on tour. They have made complaint to me.

When I spoke of 30 maunds a day being the quantity of firewood required for the establishment and camp, I referred to Sukkur. It includes the firewood supplied to camel men and other people who come to the Collector's camp. There would be about 50 to 60 persons in the cold weather to consume the amount of firewood. They would be very extravagant, knowing that they will not have to pay for it. The firewood came without payment from the zamindars.

The only motor in the district belongs to Parialsing who is under the management of the Manager, Incumbered Estates. I know of no other motor in this district. The roads are not good enough for motor cars. The Kambar road is now repaired and is fit for motor cars; there may still be bad parts in the road. It would be possible to drive motor cars along some of the roads in this district and others may be made fit for motors. In that case some touring might be done by motor cars but district officers could not do their field inspection by motor.

The tapadars do keep accounts of rasai fund. I think they keep them on loose papers. I don't think they are made up in books. They were kept in books in the Sukkur district.

To The Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain:

In rare cases the Asst. Collr. and the Dy. Collr. visit the same camps more than once. The Asst. Collr. and Dy. Collr. visit the taluka head quarters three times every year. But in other cases they visit more than once rarely—that may be due to remission or other work.

I have known of instances where Mukhtiarkars who have made good rasai have become Dy. Collrs: some of the Mukhtiarkars might benefit by the rasai fund. I was the Collector's Head Munshi in the Karachi district.

My definition of rasai refers to all districts in which I have served.

To The Chairman:

My meaning in answer 38 is that some of the officers pay for fowls, eggs and milk and some do not.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain:

Generally the tapadars pay the expenses referred to in question 38. It is in a few cases that they are borne by the zamindars.

By nominal bills I mean that Rs. 2 are charged for supplies worth Rs. 10.

I believe it is a practice in some talukas that zamindars contribute to the rasai fund in addition to lapo.

To Mr. Sawhney:

The officers tour always in the cold weather moving from camp to camp. I do not think the use of motor cars would reduce the carriage expenses of tours unless motor lorries are provided for the baggage. The 1914 circular refers to both lapo and rasai. I consider the 10% levied from contractors to be lapo paid by the contractors. I understand the circular applies also to lapo paid by the contractors.

I had conversations with the Raj Mahajan before the appointment of the committee. When the Raj Mahajan come and call on the Mukhtiarkar and he asks them the news they tell him about their grievances in respect of each department. Some of the contractors who come with the Raj Mahajan must have told me in the course of conversation about the 10% paid on their contracts.

To The Chairman:

They don't speak of it as a grievance ; in some cases they tell it to me as a bit of news. I believe it is an old practice.

To Mr. Mahmudshah:

You might call borrowing a tum-tum from a sethia a form of rasai. It would not be lapo. My reference to the sethia and the sub inspector was in connection with question No. 47. This information was given to me by the sethias.

To The Chairman:

The Mahomedan and Hindu Raj Mahajans sometimes come together and sometime separately. Some of the Raj Mahajans are partners with contractors of the P. W. D The last time was in 1915 and 1916 in the Pano Akil taluka when one of the Raj Maha jans who came to see me had a 2 anna share with a P.W.D. contractor.

Bill for the Collector of Larkana.

From 21st January 1918 to 4th February 1918.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Fuel 30 mds. @ 10 As. per md.	18	12	0
Charcoal 2 mds. @ Rs. 2-12-0 per md...	5	8	0
Palal grass 3 carts @ Rs. 2 per one	6	0	0
Eggs 13 dzs. 4 eggs. @ -6- per one	5	0	0
Fish	2	7	3
Flour Superior 10 seers	3	12	0
„ Inferior 5 seers	1	0	0
Potatoes 4 seers @ -3- per one seer	0	12	0
Sugar 4 seers @ -8- per seer	2	0	0
Salt 3 seers @ -1-6 per seer	0	4	6
Onions 4 seers @ -2- per seer	0	8	0
Milk 2 seers @ -2- per seer	0	4	0
Grass (Karbi) 90 bands @ -2-6 per one band	14	1	0
Big Jars 2 @ -4- per one	0	8	0
One Butcher for getting out the skin of a "Phora." ..	0	8	0
Grand Total	61	4	9

Sixty one -4-9 only.

Received the amount with thanks.

Jaswantrai,

Jaswantrai, Dated 5-2-18.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JESASING KIMATSING.

1. Name.	1. Jesasing Kimatsing.
2. Occupation.	2. Retired Deputy Collector.
3. Extent of business or zamindari Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. I pay about Rs. 5 per mensem as income-tax on salary of Rs. 250 and land revenue to the extent of about Rs. 400.
4. Residence.	4. Larkana.
5 Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. None.
	Rasai.
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. 'Rasai' is a noun from the verb 'Rasain' (aSindhi word) which means "To satisfy"—Hence "Rasai" means "satisfying."
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. As zamindar, I have never made 'Rasai'
8. What are the camping ground for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars.	
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?	
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	8 to 22. I have never made rasai as zamindar and therefore I can not answer the questions.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?	
22. What does that cost you for each camp?	

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

23 to 33. I have never made rasai as zamindar and therefore I cannot answer the questions.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

34 to 36. I approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?

37. No.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. I have always taken this as an expression of regard for the officer to whom the dhali is given and I do not think it is necessary that Government should prohibit the practice.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. Some kind of gratification paid by one person to another.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest department ?

40. I know of one form called anagi and it is levied in the Revenue Department. I do not know if it is levied in other departments.

41 How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

41. Personally I do not know but my brothers with whom I hold land jointly say that they pay fixed lapo at the rate of half an anna per jireb.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Lapo is levied by tapedars and for the ostensible purpose of rasai.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Yes. It is levied as an excuse to cover the cost of rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Yes. It is levied for the purpose of making money presents as well.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

45, 46 and 47. I do not know the amount of such presents. I believe it is paid to the establishment as an inducement to conceal the mistakes of the subordinates of the taluka.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I pay each year about Rs. 8 or 10 on account of lapo.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. If tapadars were not required to contribute anything towards rasai, I think payment on account of lapo would be stopped by itself to a great extent. The other measure for the prevention of lapo would be to authorise Post Offices to receive payment of land revenue without charging any money order fee.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher is understood to be unpaid labour supplied by zemindars.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Chheras are mostly the haris of zamindars.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. (i) Closing of breaches;
(ii) Repairing roads;
(iii) Working at the camps; and
(iv) at shikar.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Yes.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. (i) I do not know;
(ii) No, except by certain officers, when chheras are called for the purpose of shikar.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

57 and 58. About 10 to 50

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. No. I do not know if zamindars pay them.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. I can not say.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. I think they come willingly and are fed, in most cases, at the expense of the officers.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. I cannot say.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Yes.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. Nothing from officers or local boards. I do not know if they get anything from zamindars.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. I cannot say.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. I think they are paid by the officers of the Public Works Department.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. I do not think so.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. I cannot say.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes. Chher i.e. labour not paid for ought to be abolished.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. JESSASING, RETIRED DEPUTY COLLECTOR.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

I was 10 years a Mukhtiarkar and 10 years a Deputy Collector. I was a Mukhtiarkar in the Sukkur, Larkana and Hyderabad districts, Deputy Collector in the Upper Sind Frontier, Sukkur, Larkana and Hyderabad districts.

Rasai used to be made in my time both when I was Mukhtiarkar and a Deputy Collector. The expenses mostly came from the rasai fund. The rasai fund was made up by the tapadars out of their pay. Their contributions varied from Rs. 10 to a month's pay. The amounts which tapadars contributed depended upon the extent of cultivation in their tapas. The idea was that it should bear some proportion to the lapo which each collected. I think it was a very small portion of the lapo; the major part went into the pocket of the tapadar.

To the Chairman.—

I think tapadars retire very well off considering their pay. I am a poor man as compared with many of the tapadars.

The supplies were not at all paid for by the establishment i.e. the low paid establishment. The touring officers paid for their supplies and the establishment in the higher grades also paid for their supplies, such as head munshis and sherishtedars. I think the establishment of the Assistant Collector very seldom paid. I think the bills of touring officers did not include the full amount of the full rates of the articles.

My Head Munshi when I was Mukhtiarkar told me that payments were made out of the rasai fund to the head clerks and the munshis of touring officers.

I have heard of the payment called Kilo Khorani and Kilo Tokani ; Kilo Khorani is never paid to the butler but to the havaldar. A gratuity is also paid to the butler. The money was paid through an imaginary fear that false complaints might be made to the officer.

The syce of Mr. Lucas once made a complaint against me that I did not supply grass for his horse. Mr. Lucas ordered me to make an enquiry into the matter. I made a report and on that report the syce was dismissed.

I have never myself seen tapadars and zamindars being ill-treated by the menials of touring officers. I can't recollect if actual complaints were made to me.

The tapadars pay the establishment through fear as the latter may otherwise trouble the tapadars in correspondence.

The lapo is paid to the tapadar partly because he can cause favour or disfavour to the zamindars and also because it is a long standing practice. The Mukhtiarkars used to connive at the levy of lapo. I think that if the Mukhtiarkars were firm about the matter lapo would considerably decrease. The tapadars have no real power to confer favour or disfavour on the zamindars. The system has been changed. They may report boundary marks out of repair or they might report waste of water. The real power to confer favour or disfavour is now with the supervising tapadar. He however accepts part of the lapo yearly from the tapadar.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

The Circular of 1914 did improve matters in the time of Mr. Beyts in the Hyderabad district. I was then in the Hyderabad district. Grass, fowls, eggs and fuel were provided by the contracting zamindar after 1914; before that by the tapadars who collected them from the zamindars.

I think the zamindars did charge for the supplies given after 1914. The zamindars did not like acting as contractors. They took payments of the bills willingly. Full payments were made to them of the articles shewn in their bills. My experience was that they supplied more than was shewn in the bills. They must therefore be working at a loss unless they get recouped by the tapadars. I think that the rasai fund stopped entirely after 1914 in the Hyderabad district but lapo did not stop. I think tapadars continued to contribute towards expenses of rasai though the rasai fund ceased to exist. I think the tapadars supplemented their supplies from the zamindars and recouped their expenses from the zamindars. It may be in some cases that the zamindars did not work at a loss; I can't say. I think Collectors might restrict their tours to head quarter towns and big villages with markets and then from there might go with one clerk to small villages like Mr. Beyts.

There must be a zamindar contractor for providing supplies to the Collector. I think those appointed in 1914 were a tolerable success. I don't think we can do without a zamindar in the matter of rasai. It will be possible to eliminate the tapadars but we could not do without the zamindar. Zamindar contractors could be found in every taluka. It was possible everywhere in the Hyderabad district. I don't know if they made the rasai of officers of departments other than the Revenue Department.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.—

The zamindars were not willing to take these contracts. I think there is no harm in compelling them to help us in their own interests. They should be persuaded. A Deputy Collector could not go to small villages with only one clerk. His duties are so multifarious that he would have to take his whole establishment even to small villages.

To The Chairman.—

It might be possible to eliminate the tapadars altogether if the matter was insisted upon by the touring officers.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GHULAM MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH KHAN.

Preliminary.

1. Name.

1. Ghulam Muhammad son of Serai Abdullah Khan Isran.

2. Occupation.

2. Zamindari.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.

3. About 5,000 acres. Land Revenue Rs. 15,000.

4. Residence.

4. Khairpur Juso, taluka Kambar, district Larkana.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.

5. District Local Board member and member of the Bench of Honorary Magistrates.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

6. Rasai means the making of arrangements for the accommodation of and the supply of provisions to officers and their establishments on tour.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?

7. 10 or 12 years.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?

8. For Khairpur Juso, taluka Kambar, Hassanabad, taluka Warah, separately and for Larkana Head-quarters, Kambar, Rashid Wagon, Rato Kot, taluka Larkana and Pakho, taluka Kambar jointly.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?

9. The Collector, the Assistant and Deputy Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the Executive Engineer, the Sub-Divisional Officer, the Sub-Overseer, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, the District Superintendent of Police, the Inspector and Sub-Inspector of Police.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?

10. Fowls, eggs, mutton, milk, butter, firewood, pegs, grass, spices, jars, bedding, vegetables, ghee, cots, etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

11. These articles are partly bought from shops and partly provided by myself.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars.

12. All these articles except milk are either bought by me or provided out of my own stock. I take nothing from other zamindars. I take milk alone from haris and others.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?

13. I purchase all provisions except milk, firewood, grass at market rates

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?

14. Yes, they have, but the values are slightly smaller than those in large towns.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?

15. I do not bring firewood from the Government jungles but get it from my own lands. I simply feed haris who cut down firewood.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?

16. For European officer Re. 1-8-0 daily and for an Indian officer Rs. 2-0-0 daily.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?

17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?

18. About Re. 1-0-0 per man.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. About Rs. 1-8-0 per each munshi.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. The amount varies according to the number of men and of days as said above.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. In part from European officers and seldom from Indian officers.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. It falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Where there are no Government buildings, private buildings have to be provided.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. It costs nothing.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Sometimes I have to provide for riding conveyance and for carriage of records.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. Generally it costs nothing. No payment is made.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. Details of expenses have been given above. We receive no payment.

31 What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. From Rs. 1,500 to 2,000.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. At two camps I make the rasai myself. At others tapadars make it. There are no contracting zamindars here.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. At the camps where I make the rasai myself bills are prepared under the directions of the butler The amount of the bill never reaches me. At the camps where I make rasai jointly, bills are prepared by tapadars but the money is not paid to us.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. It will improve matters to some extent if contractors independent of tapadars and zamindars are appointed.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. If attempts are made a contractor could be had for each taluka for the present.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. The following are my objections :—

(a) There is extraordinary and careless expenditure and wastage at camps ;
(b) Rasai is illegal and unjust burden ;

(c) Rasai becomes an excuse for taking lapo. It is rather difficult to stop rasai all at once. But the appointment of independent contractors, the reduction of the period of tour and touring establishment and camping in larger towns, will decrease rasai considerably, as in large towns rasai contractors can get all the necessary things without the intervention of zamindars.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Yes. I give them occasionally of my own accord. These cost me between Rs. 5 and 20.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. This practice is dependent upon the option of both officers and zamindars. It promotes good will among them and Government should not therefore interfere in this matter.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means anything taken in cash or in kind for the ostensible purpose of rasai or as payment for the occasion, for favours and conveniences.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments?

40. Unauthorized lapo is commomly levied in the departments referred to. It is taken either in cash or in kind.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre, or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the various departments as under :—

Revenue Department.—Tapadars take it as a charge per jireb or per survey number and also as an annuity; supervising tapadars take it at a certain rate per survey number and as an annuity. Munshis take it at a certain rate per survey number and as an annuity. Private and Government menials are paid a certain sum per camp and also as an annuity.

Police Department.—At certain rate per camp and as an annuity.

Public Works Department.—Per camp, as an annuity, per karia and according to facilities made in the supply of water.

Forest.—As an annuity and according to facilities made in respect of grazing.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorizd 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. All kamoras and their subordinates referred to above take lapo. They take it on the plea of rasai and for themselves.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Tapadars take lapo on the plea of rasai. I give lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Tapadars take lapo for making cash payments to private servants and official establishment of touring officers. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. They vary from 8 annas to Rs. 100 and sometimes even more. These presents are made solely in order to safeguard our respect. They are not paid in the form of a daily allowance.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Unauthorized lapo is levied in view of favours in following matters :—

Revenue Department.—In the matter of land grants, remission of land revenue, grant of takavi and postponement of its recovery, transfer of khata, permission of digging pits, putting up kilns, village sites and building sites and wastage of water.

Police Department.—Protection of reputation and fear of the raj being set up against the zamindar.

Public Works Department.—Facilities of water-supply in rotation and facilities in connection with passing on the banks of canals and digging of kacha wells in the beds of canals, in matter relating to partnership in karias, for water-supply to lands newly taken up and for wastage of water.

Forest.—Land grants, sanctions to village sites and facilities in grazing.

47. **What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?**

47. The subordinate officers concerned charge us according to the importance of the affair and the facilities made. The amount varies from Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 100-0-0 and even more.

48. **What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?**

48. From Rs. 1,000 to 1,500.

49. **Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the sysem of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?**

49. In my zamindari no contractor has ever been appointed for making rasai, nor has the lapo decreased.

50. **Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars ?**

50. In some cases it has decreased slightly.

51. **Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?**

51. The following measures should be adopted to stop lapo :—

(a) Touring should be reduced *i.e.* camps should be made in large towns only.

(b) Small establishment should be taken on tour.

(c) Independent contractors should be appointed for making arrangements at camps.

(d) Powers of tapedars and supervising tapedars should be curtailed and correspondence regarding revenue matters should be disposed of in consultation with respectable zamindars.

(e) Land revenue should be remitted free of charge by post.

(f) Judicial and Revenue Departments should be made separate.

(g) Independent respectable men should be appointed in each taluka to watch be and get information regarding the givers and takers of rasai and lapo. These should in direct connection with the Collector and the Commissioner, and honours should be bestowed on them in view of the services they render in the detection of crime.

(h) The powers of the Police should be curtailed and respectable zamindars should be given powers in the matter of detection of crime.

(i) In the Public Works Department a committee should be appointed for each canal consisting of zamindars who take water from that canal and it should be left to them to decide matters regarding supply of water and powers of subordinate officers should be curtailed.

(j) In the Forest Department also the powers of subordinates should be curtailed and a committee of the zamindars concerned appointed to settle disputes regarding land.

Chher.

52. **What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?**

52. Chher means to get work done without payment or on inadequate payment.

53. **Who are the 'Chheras' ?**

53. They are generally haris of zamindars, small khatedars and other men of the raj.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

54. They are called on in connection with work on roads, breaches and bunds.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

55. Haris who are made to work as chheras are taken on the condition that they will work as chheras. They are given some concessions also.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from the officers of Government ?

56. They get only food from zamindars. Sometimes they get a remuneration from the Public Works Department which is inadequate and hardly sufficient for their food.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?

57. From 10 to 30 according to the establishment.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. 20 to 30 for preparing the camping ground and for pitching and striking tents, otherwise from 10 to 20.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?

59. They get food from zamindars and nothing from officials.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?

60. The number of chheras depends upon the circumstances in each case. It varies from 10 to 100.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. Not willingly as thereby their cultivation suffers; nor under compulsion. See answer to question 55. They get food from the zamindar and shikaris alone sometimes get some cash from the officials.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?

62. The Local Fund roads after they are repaired are not properly looked after by the Local Fund malhis, as they are generally busy doing the private work of officers. Consequently chheras are required in urgent cases. Their number varies from 10 to 100 according to the amount of work.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Repairs by chheras are made at the time of officers' visits. The public also get some benefit from such repairs.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ?

64. They get only food from zamindars and nothing from officers or Local Boards.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. From 10 to 500 according to the magnitude of the work in connection with floods and breaches.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?

66. In the case of breaches they get from Public Works Department just enough either in cash or in kind for their food. In other cases they get food from zamindars and nothing from Government.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?

67. Both haris and zamindars suffer loss if chheras are employed on such work during the cultivation season. Cultivation is inerfered with, causing loss to them and zamindars.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?

68. A large number of labourers can be had in my neighbourhood on payment of the usual wage which varies from 6 annas to 8 annas according to season and nature of work.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?

69. Yes.

consider 'Chher' ought abolished or modified in way by Government?

70. Chher should be abolished. Touring officers should get khalasis or the rasai contractor should be called upon to supply the required labour.

Note.

Besides the above abuses there is another objectionable practice which oppresses the general public and the poorer and illiterate classes. This is called 'Begar.' In big towns policemen and subordinates of other departments within their respective charges impress bullock carts against the wishes of the cartmen without payment or on inadequate payment. They also exact money from them under the threat of impressing when as a matter of fact no carts are required by them. To put a stop to this practice carts should be obtained through a contractor or other person specially appointed for the purpose.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF SERAI GHULAM MAHOMED.

To the Chairman.—

I never get money on bills paid by the officers. It is kept by the butlers.

I mean by joint camps—camps where more than one zamindar jointly make rasai. In that case the bills are prepared by the tapedars in respect of the Revenue Department and by the subordinates of the other departments in the case of those departments.

The Shikar arrangement at Lang is for 4 or 5 men to go with each sahib and for 100 or 200 beaters to be scattered round the water. My uncle, K. S. Goverkhan, used to tell the officers not to pay the men in order to please them.

I have known Goverkhan paying back to officers the money which was given to the beaters by the sahibs; that was because our bandobust would otherwise be disorganized as all the people would like to go with the sahibs.

Some of the casual labourers are not haris and the others are haris who have nothing to do at the time and who are willing to go on labour for wages.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai.

Eggs and fowls are cheaper in villages than in towns. Eggs sometimes can be had for one pice but generally for 1½ or 2 pice and the fowls at annas three for a small fowl and at annas 4 for a large fowl—that is to say, in villages.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

I supply such things as eggs, butter, grass, but the tapadars never pay me anything for it. I also pay for the provisions taken from the banias, when the camp is not run jointly with other zamindars. I also pay money to butlers and servants. There are other zamindars like myself who do the same. The tapedar at the same time takes lapo from me.

To the Chairman.—

The lapo tends daily to increase—it is more than it used to be.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

The zamindars who give labour willingly during the breach of a canal may be interested in one year and disinterested in the next year. It all depends where the breach is.

I myself shikar. I make a special bandobust to please officers of Government. Serai Shahmahomed sometimes comes and shoots with me. Each brings two or three of his own people but we do not employ chheras.

He would not pay my men because the men would be my servants. They are no chheras.

Written Evidence of Mr. Wadhumal Tarachani

1. Name.	1. Wadhumal Tarachand.
2. Appointment.	2. Mukhtiarkar.
3. Head-quarters.	3. Dadu.
4. Length of service.	4. 18 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 18 years.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge ?	6. 190982 Acres 3 guntas.
7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps ?	7. Mutton, eggs, chickens, fowls, butter, milk, cereals, fish, pala, jars, cots, kerosine oil, dry fruits for cakes, ghee, fuel, grass.
8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps ?	8. Cots and water jars for the whole establishment No other furniture is supplied.
9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments ?	9. Landhis are sometimes constructed. Clerical establishment of the Assistant or Deputy Collector is put in private houses which are vacated for the occasion. They put up in musafir-khanas where they exist. Collector's and Commissioner's establishment put up in the rowties.
10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps?	10. Commissioner has got his own stable tents. For others landhis are put up.
11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps ?	11. Officers have got their own tents in which they put up.
12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps ?	12. They require cheras for pitching and unpitching tents, fetching water and to help their servants and menial establishments.
13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ?	13. Roads are good.
14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?	14. Mukhtiarkar of the taluka. He employs beldars and also takes help from zamindars.
15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps ?	15. Special repairs are made if officers drive in tongas or in motor cars. Zamindari labour is always engaged for the purpose.
16. What are their means of transport ? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters ?	16. They keep their baggage camels. Sometimes camels and tongas are given and paid from rasai fund for establishment etc.
17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?	17. Commissioner and the Collectors have their own arrangements. But Deputy or Assistant Collector's post is taken by kotars to their camps.
18. What are the usual camping places in your charge?	18. Sita, Pat, Puranodero, Dadu, Mondar, Bahawalpur, and Khudabad are the usual camping places for Collectors. Deputy and Assistant Collectors encamp at these and various other minor places.
19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?	19. Zamindari labour clears the camping ground.

Except Khudabad where there is one shop only, the other seven places have bazars. But mutton is not usually sold at Pat, Mondar, Khudabad, and Phaka.

[illegible]ich of them are within practical reach of villages with banias shops or bazars ?

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?

21. At Dadu alone the camping ground has a small vegetable garden.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows ?

22. Sita, Purandoero, and Dadu have bungalows. Bahawalpur had a bungalow.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?

23. Only a watchman is maintained at each of these bungalows. This watchman is under the P.W.D.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?

24. Appeasement by service, giving supplies, and cash payments.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies ?

25. 2 fowls, ½ dozen eggs, 1 fish or palo, mutton 1½ seers, 4 to 12 seers of milk, ½ to 1 seer of butter, fuel 1 maund, grass according to requirements. But bill for much less quantity is given. The Deputy or Assistant Collector takes about half of this.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment ?

26. They take in cash. Butler 1 to 7 rupees, mistri 8 annas, mashal 6 annas, others 4 annas each; besides they get fuel. Establishment gets whatever they want, at times including liquor, aerated waters, cloth, fruit.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?

27. Average price would be wheat flour Rs. 8 a maund, rice Rs. 10, eggs 6 annas a doz., sheep Rs. 12, milk 2 annas a seer, butter Re. 1 a seer, grass 2 annas a bundle, firewood 8 annas a maund.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?

28. At all the places of camp shown above, those things are sold, but at very small places far away from towns all these things have no market value.

29. What do you estimae to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment ?

29. Collector Rs. 5, Daftardar 8 annas, Assistant Collector 3 rupees. Deputy Collector Re. 1-8 Private servants of Collector 5 rupees, Assistant Collector 3 rupees, Deputy Collector 1 rupee. Establishment: Collector 40 rupees, Assistant or Deputy Collector 25 rupees.

30. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

30. These requirements are supplied by tapedars.

31. How are they paid for ?

31. Bill with the consultation of the butler is given to the officer who pays accordingly. The amount so paid is taken away by the butler.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp ?

32. The payments are so small in proportion to the expenses that no body cares to retain the amount for being given to the suppliers.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

33. Actual payments are about 1-25th of the estimated average daily cost.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

34. The excess expenses are borne by tapedars who are paid for this by zamindars, who again charge the haris at the time of the division of the produce.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

35. Yes. The excess is made out of a rasa. fund maintained by the tapedar.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

36. No.

37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

37. They get vegetables gratis from gardens and sometimes they are sent for from other places and nothing is charged for them.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

38. No effect has been given to the rules of 1914. The tapedars still continue to supply. Zamindar is produced only for show. In mufassil those zamindars supply meat, eggs, fuel etc. who do not pay the tapedar for rasai.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?

39. A contractor or any other modification would be a grim joke as is the circular of 1914, so long the present system of administration continues.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

40. Touring officers do not give intimation of their requirements : they simply inform about their camps.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ?

41. No.

42. Do you give " Dhalis " of vegetables and fruis and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ?

42. I do not give dalis.

43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such " Dhalis " and sheep ? And whence are they obtained ?

43. Ditto.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject ?

44. Giving of dalis is prohibited

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

45. Lapo signifies something over and above the stipulated amounts. Lapo is also levied by zamindars from haris.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ?

46. Four forms of lapo exist in Dadu taluka.

a. One rupee on each survey number.

b. One rupee on each survey number plus four annas for rasai.

c. 1 to 1½ annas per jireb plus 1 to 2 pice for rasai.

d. 1 anna per rupee of assessment plus 4 annas for rasai.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?

47. Zamindar pays lapo to tapedar as usage in return for convenience and courtesy.

48 How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ?

48. Lapo is levied as shown in para 55. On account of Collector's camp tapedars take from some zamindars some amounts in lieu of eggs, kids, butter etc. known as 'thullahs."

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ?

49. Half or over of the lapo is utilized to cover the costs of rasai. It is converted for that purpose into rasai fund.

[redacted]o manages the 'Rasai'

50. Tapedar of the Headquarter under management of the Head Munshi and orders of the Mukhtiarkar.

How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. Money presents are paid at *jamabandi* and akharsal to private and official establishments of the touring officers.

Jamabandi:

Head munshi	Rs. 150.	Second munshi	Rs. 40.
Head clerk	50.	Judicial munshi	50
Junior clerk	20.	2 Junior clerks	10 each.

Akharsal:

Collector's Office.

Head munshi	50	Head Munshi's munshi	30
3 Munshis	30 each.	Record munshi, treasury office	10
One munshi	20	1 clerk of treasury	7
Naib serishtedar	30		
Collector's peons	50	Daftardar's peons	6
Deputy Collector's peons	64 plus 20 jamabandi.		

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for practiular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

52. Lapo as shown above is levied for convenience and courtesy, for favours in land revenue matters such as taking up land, postponements, takavi, tips known as *balai rakam* are charged. Other departments charge in their own way.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. Payments as shown above are made for use of soft language for mistakes detected.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

54. No.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

55. No.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

56. To me it appears that unless administrative changes are not made, it is hopeless to effect any improvements. People are not fools to impoverish themselves and pay in such enormous amounts to enrich Government servants, most of whom as a matter of fact should be poor as a church mouse but who on account of wide corruption leave property far more than the sum of all their pays put together. People must be paying such sums for some purpose. To me appear the following remedies:—

People should have ordinary courtesy from officials. At present only some specified persons have received chair when they visit officers. As a matter of fact ordinary courtesy should be shown to all.

2. Chapter VIII of the Cr. P. Code plays an important part in the corruption in public service.

3rd. There should be canal conference for each government canla. For this conference all the khatedars should elect members who and the officials should decide about the clearance, rotation etc. of the canal. So long the reins are in the hands of one set they will ever require to be greased to loosen the grasp.

4th. Inspection of the taluka offices should be stopped. This system h[illegible] failure after nearly 80 years' trial in Sind. Central record rooms should be e[illegible] for each district to which every month the decided correspondences and files and cases etc. should be sent. The system of filing should be changed. Applications be entertained only by Collector which should be forwarded to various officers after r[illegible] ence to the central record room and should be disposed of within two or three mont[illegible] the latest.

5th. Going as peshwas to Deputy Collectors and Collectors should be stopped as is now been done in Thar district by Mr Moysey. The ordeal of rolling on the ground for hours together is an insult to officers and zamindars alike.

In short the old system which has given birth to so many vices and corruption and have kept them ever on the increase in public service require to be recast and new systems introduced.

57. **What do you understand by the term "Chher"?**

57. Cher implies labour supplied free of cost but whose cause the suppliers cannot espouse, that is, chher is a body of helpless labourers.

58. **Who are the 'Chheras'?**

58. Muhammadans.

59. **What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?**

59. Chheras are required to pitch tents, to remove kit, to fetch water and do other menial work for all.

60. **Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?**

60. Yes. The chheras hold their lands from zamindars to perform such labour.

61. **When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?**

61. Chheras get food for the time they remain at the camps, from zamindars, but nothing is paid by officials.

62. **How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?**

62. Paid labour can be had at all places.

63. **Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government?**

63. Beldars are maintained in winter season.

64. **How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?**

64. They are not bound, but they have to do this in order to avoid displeasure.

65. **Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?**

65. No.

66. **For what purposes do touring officers require labour?**

66. If the servants of officers and peons would do their work, the labour would be required for pitching and unpitching tents only, but now it is required for all purposes except cooking.

67. **How many labourers do they require daily in camp?**

67. At Collector's camp 20 labourers are required daily, but on the first day about 30 are required. At Deputy Collector's camp 5 daily and 10 on the first day.

68. **How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?**

68. 30 on the day of pitching and 30 on the day of striking camp.

69. **Whence do they obtain them?**

69. Tapadar supplies them who gets from zamindars

70. **Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?**

70. Nothing is paid to them, only they are supplied food by their respective zamindars.

...ould be the probable cost ...bstituting casual paid la... ...r? Could this be obtained ...om the Rasai contractor?

71. Eight annas a coolie. The contractor can supply paid labour.

How do they obtain labour for shikar?

72. Zamindars supply labour for shikar.

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?

73. Some officers pay something and the zamindars show reluctance as non-payment does not cost them anything. It is the haris who suffer.

74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

74. Nothing is paid to labourers by zamindars, they being their haris. The zamindars feed haris, but generally for this deduction is made at the time of the division of produce.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

75. If heavy repairs have to be carried out which might become too much for beldars, Mukhtiarkar asks zamindars to help, and zamindars draw upon their haris who work for food only which as shown above is a cost on the hari rather than the zamindar.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?

76. Nothing is paid by officials. Further reply is contained in para 85.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

77. Chher is supplied by zamindars in case of floods and breaches.

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

78. They are supplied with food by zamindars and on occasions by government.

79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

79. Cultivation is not allowed to suffer. If taking away a hari for purposes of chher would interfere with cultivation work the hari would prefer paying in cash to the zamindar to employ a labourer for him.

80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

80. If beldars are employed for pitching tents and other purposes, it slightly interferes with their work for the time they are so employed.

81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?

81. No.

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.?

82. Chher can be suppressed only when the menial establishment of officers gets a little poorer when they might condescend to work with their hands. Now when a havaldar and butlers can sit on equal level with Mukhtiarkars and Deputy Collectors even—a position coveted by so many zamindars and rich merchants—they would necessarily require chheras. They forget the class from which they come. There would be no necessity for orders if peons pitch tents and other menial servants do their respective works. If it becomes the fashion that any body who happens to be in service should not do any work, then whosoever is employed will do no work and will require a chhera. What earnestness on part of officers can accomplish, volumes of orders would not.

Oral Evidence of Mr. Wadhualmal Mukhtiarkar of Dadu.

To the Chairman:

In my answer to question No. 48, by the present system of administration I mean the system of chairs and such honours.

I mean in my answer to No. 53—giving of dhalis by subordinate officers.

I mean in my answer to Q-40 that the actual payment is only 1-25th of the whole cost of the camp excluding cash payments.

The word thula refers to the payments taken from big zamindars.

With regard to my answer to Q-15 para 5, by peshwa I mean the system of Mukhtiarkars going to meet superior officers at the boundary of the taluka.

I mean by my answer to Q. 66—that the zamindars who supply the chhera look after the interests of the chhéras. The chheras are always the haris of the dars.

I have never seen any presents given by the officials to the chheras at the close of t camp. The paid labour available would be haris not engaged on their fields. Ther would be other people also but mostly haris.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

The zamindars make rasai in order to smooth the path to honours and gun licenses I don't think they make rasai in order to get lands. The zamindars have no self respect No one can have self respect unless he gets a chair. I am in favour of chairs being con tinued for durbaris but not otherwise.

My remark about cases under Chapter VIII apply to the Police Department. Th system of rasai without adequate payments exists in all departments. The darogha make the rasai in the P.W.D., jamadars and Sub Divisional Officers in the Police Deptt.

To the Chairman:

I hear about other departments when I go on tour. I receive complaints from people about other departments. I had received complaints in the Johi taluka against a darogha in the P. W. D. The matter was compromised. The daroghas generally get Rs. 1 to 2 for each nar (water wheel) and also something for each kasi (water channel).

I believe that daroghas make rasai but I do not know the details of it. It must cost them something so that they levy sums of money and take them themselves.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

The daroghas have dealings with maldars and they get kids and milk from the maldars. In return they allow them to graze their cattle on canal banks. They also get milk from them. These articles are used for rasai also.

There are regular accounts kept of the rasai fund. I have brought some of the accounts with me.

To the Chairman:

I have brought loose papers of accounts of the rasai fund obtained from the tapadar of Dadu. I have also a note-book kept by the tapadar of Dadu. These papers have been preserved as payments are still to be made on them, otherwise they would not have been preserved. The payments still have to be made to the actual providers of supplies. These are from November. Some of these are paid and some remain to be paid. These payments don't contain receipts from zamindars; they only contain a memorandum of payments to be made to the suppliers by the tapadar. There is a list of moneys received from the tapadars and I also have a bundle of chits of orders given by the tapedars to the bania. The whole amount of the bills has to be paid out of the rasai fund because what is paid by the officers is really taken away by the butlers and the whole cost falls on the rasai fund. There is also a memorandum among these papers of the payments levied from the tapadar. The note book contains an account of money spent by the tapadar out of his own pocket over and above the bills received from the bania. I will endeavour to make out from these papers what was the cost of each camp at Dadu to which they refer. They refer to the camps of the Dy. Collector, Collector and the Sessions Judge.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

I have only recently been at Dadu. I have been previously Mukhtiarkar at Pithoro. I was Resident Magistrate at Mirpurkhas.

There was the same system there except that the tapadar got more there. Here the rate is Rs. 1-4 and there the rate is Rs. 2 for lapo. The system was the same but it has been somewhat restricted by Mr. Moysey.

Complaints have been made to me by the zamindars and tapadars of having been abused, illtreated and beaten by butlers and peons of the establishments of the touring officers.

The chheras are made to do all the work of menials in the camp.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain:

The cash payments are made by the tapadar to the Head Munshis and other munshis of the taluka office. The Head Munshi gets Rs. 15 per tapadar and other munshis some Rs. 5 and others Rs. 2.

It is the zamindar who provides eggs, fowls, grass, milk and butter outside the head quarters. He is not paid anything by the tapadar. At the head quarters it is the tapadar who purchases these things.

I understand that the total expenses of rasai amount to Rs. 6,000 out of which Rs. 1,500 or so would be cash payments. The half of lapo spent on rasai includes the cash payments also.

The daroghas of the P.W.D. don't systematically levy lapo like the tapadar. There may be some Mukhtiarkars who profit by the rasai fund. They mostly don't encourage the rasai fund.

I can't give instances of Mukhtiarkars having been appointed Dy. Colleetors for making good rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney:

The zamindars can advise as to places in which clearance ought to be done and as to rotation of water supply. I think they would be experts in the details of these matters.

At present the zamindars repsesent themselves but if they were respresentatives as a conference they would represent the public.

I have no idea as to what the Executive Engineer has to consider in sanctioning the clearance estimate. Engineering knowledge would not be required by the zamindars. I have never seen the bills paid by the P. W. D. officers for supplies. I can't say if they are paid in full or not. I know one of the chief duties of the darogha is to see that the trees are not cut.

To the Chairman:

I don't know the details of the impounding of cattle by the P. W. D.

To Mr. Mahmudshah:

I have never tried Chapter VIII cases. I have not been empowered to do so. There has been a change in the system of working Chapter VIII cases during the last 4 years.

To the Chairman:

There is at present a deficit in the rasai fund at Dadu. I think it is about Rs. 2,000. The total rasai fund in my taluka is about Rs. 6,000 a year. The total lapo is about Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 13,000.

I had once succeeded in stopping lapo in the Johi taluka in 1914. It only lasted a short time. If Mukhtiarkars gave their minds to it they could stop lapo but they would require the support of the higher officers. I stopped both rasai and lapo in Johi taluka.

To the Chairman:

I was not in charge during the time these accounts were made. I joined at Dadu only on 13th April 1918. I was transferred from Pithoro in the Thar and Parkar district so I don't know personally about these accounts. The Mukhtiarkar relieved was Dharamdas who is now Chief Officer, Larkana Municipality. My native place is Larkana.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. DHARAMDAS, CHIEF OFFICER, LARKANA MUNICIPALTY.

To the Chairman:

I have been for 10 days Chief Officer, and before that I was Mukhtiarkar of Dadu for about 7 months. My service is 10 years, all in Sind. I was at Dadu during the last camp of the Dy. Collector and Sessions Judge. The tapadar of Dadu at that time was Munshi Jawhermal. I have not seen any of these rasai papers and the rasai note book before. The tapadar who made the rasai of these officers was tapadar Jawhermal—the tapadar at head quarters. I can't say by whom these rasai papers were written but some of them are signed. Tapadar Bhojraj of tapa Mondar was also helping. Some of the chits are signed by Bhojraj.

I understand some of the supplies required were brought by the officers' servants direct from the bazar—the others were brought by the tapadar mostly from the bazar. It is the practice to get things from the bazar at taluka head quarters. Nothing was got from the zamindars. As far as I know even karbi and fuel were bought from the bazar, as karbi was very scarce at the time with the zamindars. I had nothing personally to do with making rasai for these officers. I believe that the head quarter tapadar did keep a rasai fund at Dadu. Every tapadar takes his own pay every month.

The list is probably of the amounts which each tapadar had to contribute towards the rasai fund. I can't say whether the actual money was paid or is to be paid.

The Dy. Collector was there for about 20 days, the Collector for 9 days and the Sessions Judge for nearly two months. There were a great many witnesses during that time. The accused was defended by Mr. Eardly Norton. As far as I know, his own clients looked after Mr. Norton. Mr. Lalchand Chuharmal was also for the defence. As far as I know these papers would not include the expenses of Mr. Norton.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

I had no hand in the rasai fund at Dadu.

To Mr. Sawhney:

I was told by Jawharmal that there was a deficit in the rasai fund. He told me so just before I left. He did not tell me how much the deficit was.

I think the Dy. Collector's camp was there with that of the Sessions Judge—but I don't think the Collector's camp was then there.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF Mr. JAWHERMAL, TAPADAR, DADU.

To the Chairman:

I made the rasai for the camps of the Dy. Collector, Collector, and the Sessions Judge. Bhojraj, tapadar of Mondar, did not assist at Dadu. He made the bandobust at his own tapa. Mondar is 5 miles from Dadu. The Collector only had a camp at Mondar. The Collector had also a camp at Dadu.

I gave these papers to Mukhtiarkar Wadhumal. They are accounts of the rasai fund. These papers also include expenses of kotars, menials and other miscellaneous expenses besides those for the rasai of the Deputy Collector, Collector and Sessions Judge. These chits are orders on the modi for supplies for rasai. Some of the chits are signed by Bhojraj because they relate to the Collector's camp at Mondar. Mondar is a big place. These accounts include the rasai at Mondar. In fact the rasai of all the camps of the taluka is included in these papers because the rasai fund is managed by the tapadar at Head quarters.

This notebook is in my handwriting. It is a memo. of miscellaneous expenses such as milk fowls, eggs and all cash payments. All these supplies were bought in the bazar including milk. They regularly sell milk in the bazar. Eggs and fowls are not sold in the bazar but purchased from private houses.

This is a statement of the contributions by the various tapadars from their pays and is in the handwriting of a tapadar named Pahlumal of Pat. He kept it in order to see that none of the collections was misappropriated by me. I kept the money and he kept the accounts.

The bundle of papers is in the handwriting of munshis, Pahlumal and Imambux while some are in my handwriting. They include accounts of the supplies given to all camps and to all the establishments. It also contains a note of all moneys received.

Mukhi Menghraj prepared the bill of the Collector's camp. The Mukhi prepared the bill and took it to the Collector with the Supervising tapadar. I did not go. The Supervising tapadar Shamsuddin told me that the money was taken by the Collector's butler. Money was paid by the Collr., but it was taken back by the butler. That was the butler dismissed by the Collector. That butler was paid Rs. 100 according to this account. It was paid through Imambakhsh patawala at Manzal Punjodero and not at Dadu.

Pages 1-5 of these papers are in the handwriting of Pahlumal but signed by me, pages 6-16 are in my handwriting and pages 18-25 in Pahlumal's handwriting. Page 27 is in the handwriting of the tapadar Imambux and 28 and 29 in that of tapadar Doulatram. Page 33 is in the handwriting of Imambakhsh the Mukhtiarkar's patewalla. Page 65 is in the handwriting of Bhojraj tapadar and the other papers are in the handwriting of one or the other of the tapadars.

I did not show these papers to Mukhtiarkar Dharamdas. I showed them to the Mukhtiarkar, Wadhumal, because he asked me for details of the amounts to be paid from the rasai fund. He asked me because the creditors were dunning the tapadars. They must have complained direct to the Mukhtiarkar.

I belong to Arzi, taluka Sehwan. The deficit in the rasai fund is about Rs. 2,000. The tapadars did not get any lapo because this year there was no kharif. The crops were all ruined by floods.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF TAPADAR HARGUNDAS

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Hargundas.
2. Appointment.	2. Tapadar.
3. Head-quarters.	3. Kareja.
4. Length of service.	4. Between 7 and 8 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. Experience of tapadars' work.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge ?	6. A Tapa.
7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps ?	7. Mutton, milk, firewood, butter, fowls, eggs, vegetables, potatoes, sugar, fish, cots, jars, grass and onions.
8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps ?	8. Cots 30 to 60, jars 35 to 70, earthen drinking bowls 8, earthen platters 2 to 4, earthen baking pans 2 to 6.
9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments ?	9. Tapadar's dero; where there is no dero private houses or huts.
10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps?	10. Huts are made with the help of the zamindar.
11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps ?	11. They have their office in tents.
12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps ?	12. Zamindars' men from 20 to 30, and sometimes bullock-carts are also taken, the hire for which is paid by them.
13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge	13. They are not in good condition.
14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?	14. The Local Board. The roads are repaired by malhis.
15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps ?	15. Ordinarily no special repairs are made but when a road leads to an officer's camp and is in bad condition then haris are taken from zamindars for repairing it.
16. What are their means of transport ? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters ?	16. Horses and hired camels. The kit is carried on baggage camels. During the touring season they maintain their own animals, but sometimes require cots for which they pay.
17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?	17. Ordinarily tapadars' kotars, and in special cases zamindars' men carry post.
18. What are the usual camping places in your charge ?	18. Ordinarily the Assistant Collector encamps in a tapa once ; the Collector never encamps in it.
19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?	19. There is no camping ground there ; but when an officer encamps there, a ground is prepared for the occasion, the zamindar's chher being employed for the purpose.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ?

20. Nearly every camping ground is within reach of villages.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?

22. Which are them of provided with bungalows ?

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?

21. 22. 23. No answer.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term ' Rasai ' ?

24. It means supplies to officers and their establishments at camps.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies ?

25. Fowls 2, eggs 6 to 12, butter one pao, milk 2 seers, firewood 2 maunds grass not exceeding 12 bundles, mutton (including that for dogs) one seer, rice straw one bundle.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

26. Milk 15 to 30 seers, mutton 6 to 15 seers, firewood 15 to 35 maunds, fresh vegetables, eggs 2 to 6, butter half a seer to 2 seers, besides other articles which are obtained from the shop.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?

27. Rice Rs. 8 to 12 per maund, eggs 6 to 9 annas per dozen, fowl 6 to 10 annas each, sheep 10 to 12 rupees each, milk 0-1-6 to 2 annas per seer, butter 3 to 5 paos per rupee, stalks 3 annas per bundle, rice straw 4 annas per bundle, firewood 6 annas a maund.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. Yes.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment ?

29. Rs. 20 to 40 including provisions.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?

30. Tapadars with the help of the zamindars collect the supplies and bring them to camp.

31. How are they paid for ?

31. Officers pay bills at low rates and the amount paid is taken back by the butlers. The rest pay nothing. As a safeguard they pay the money to the bania and get a receipt and the money is paid back to them by the tapadar.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp ?

32. Officers' servants and peons never get anything on payment. They put pressure on the tapadar to procure to them what they want, whether the tapadar or zamindar pays for it none receive payment.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

33. None except officers make payments.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

34. The loss is borne by the tapadars except at some places where it is borne by zamindars.

35. Is the excess met out of a ' Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

35. Tapadars meet it from lapo.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

36. No.

37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?

37. There is no garden there. We get vegetables from the bazar and supply them but we receive no payment.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

38. No effect has been given to them for zamindars did not undertake the responsibility. Tapadars collect the supplies, getting some from zamindars.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

39. Where there are shops all supplies can be obtained from them. At such places officers should not get their supplies through tapadars and zamindars. Contractors should be appointed for camps away from villages. It will not be possible to find an independent contractor in the tapa.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

40. We do not get orders for providing supplies. We simply get intimation of camps and are asked to make all arrangements.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

41. No.

42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?

42. No.

43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?

43. No dali is given to an establishment but vegetables and liquor are given.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?

No answer.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

45. It means what is levied for the purpose of rasai.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

46. There are two forms.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

47. In the Revenue Department lapo is levied by tapadars from zamindars for the ostensible purpose of rasai. Lapo is also levied in other departments, such as the Public Works, Forest, Police etc. It is levied by the vaccinators in the Sanitary Department.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

48. We levy lapo from the khatedars at the same time as the 1st instalment of assessment for kharif and rabi from 1 to 4 annas per acre. But some khatedars do not pay it.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

49. One third of the lapo is spent on the rasai of touring officers. It is not converted into a rasai-fund. This fund is constituted from the pay of tapadars pending receipt of lapo.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

50. Two or three tapadars.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. One third of the lapo is utilized for money presents. Approximately each tapadar spends from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 on such presents.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

52. No favours are shown on account of lapo.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. If money presents are made the strictness of examination of records is mitigated, otherwise not.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

54. Years ago all zamindars paid lapo; now some do not pay it.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

55. No.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

56. Rasai should be stopped altogether; and tapadars and zamindars should have nothing to do with it.

2. The tapadars' pay should be raised to Rs. 50 and horse allowance to Rs. 25, for the expenses of a tapadar including the feed of his horse amount to Rs. 45 per month. Besides this he has to support his family.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

57. Chher means impressed labour.

58. Who are the 'Chheras'?

58. They are zamindars' haris.

59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

59. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to construct landhis, to carry things, to do miscellaneous work, to fetch water, to close breaches, and in special cases to repair roads.

60. Do the' Chheras 'hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

60. No.

61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?

61. On some occasions they receive bakshish from officers.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

62. Casual paid labour can be procured through zamindars.

63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government?

63. Beldars are not under us.

64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

64. They are not bound except when there are serious breaches and floods.

65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

65. No.

66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour.

66. This has been answered under No. 68.

67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?

67. For the assistant Collector 5 and for the Collctor 15 chheras are required.

68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?

68. In the case of the Assistant Collectors 15 and in the case of the Collector 30 additional men are required.

69. Whence do they obtain them?

69. They are obtained from zamindars as chheras.

70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

70. They receive no payment. They get food only from the zamindars provided he is a well-to-do man.

71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor?

71. The cost would be 6 annas per labourer. Yes, it could be obtained by contractors on payment of good wages.

72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in makig them accept payment?

74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

72. 73. 74. No answer.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

75. Chher is taken from zamindars for the repair of roads in special cases.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?

76. They are given nothing except food when the zamindar is a well-to-do man.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

77. Zamindari haris.

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

78. Nothing.

79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

79. Generally it does not interfere.

80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

80. This does not apply to me.

81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher" or local orders?

81. No.

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

82. I consider that chher should be abolished. All touring officers should have Government khalasis with them.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HARGUNDAS, TAPADAR, LARKANA.

To The Chairman.—

My tapa is in the Larkana taluka. I mean by patun earthen dishes. Nothing is paid to the haris who mend the roads. The usual march of an Assistant Collector is from 6 to 8 miles. The haris are not paid anything for clearing camping grounds. A dumba trained to fight would cost Rs. 20—25. It would be a small dumba for Rs. 7. The liquor I referred to is country liquor. Sometimes the butler gets country liquor as well as the establishment.

Lapo is of two kinds in cash and in kind. Only the tapadar takes lapo in cash, supervising tapadars and subordinates of other departments take lapo in kind.

Both the cost of supplies and cash payments are paid out of the rasai fund. The tapadars have also to pay in addition to the rasai fund cash payments to the establishment and they also come out of lapo. If to the rasai fund are added the separate cash payments two-thirds of the lapo is expended. It costs 6 annas for grass and 8 annas for grain to feed a horse for a day. None but haris are employed as chheras.

To Mr. Sawhney:

Last year my lapo came to Rs. 300. Rs. 200 were spent in Rasai and cash payments. That was a different tapa last year.

The tapadars manage by money payments to get better tapas from the Head Munshis. Those who pay the most get the best tapas.

If the tapadar's pay is raised then lapo would stop. If rasai only is stopped, still owing to their small pay the tapadar will try to get lapo.

The tapadar has to be present when the payments of land revenue are made. Otherwise there might be confusion as to the lands for which it has been paid because the khatedars can't specify the lands for which they make payments.

If it could be arranged to pay the assessment direct at taluka head-quarters, then lapo would stop. If the tapadar has not to collect the revenues he will not be able to make exactions.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah:

Fire-wood is taken for rasai purposes from Government jungles. In those cases nothing is paid.

The Assistant Collector gives notice of his camps to the Mukhtiarkar who in turn gives me notice to make proper arrangement for the camps.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GUL MAHOMED, TAPADAR.

1. Name.	1. Gul Mahomed.
2. Appointment.	2. Tapadar.
3. Head-quarters.	3. Mihroda.
4. Length of service.	4. 12 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 12 years' service: experience of tapadar's duties.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge?	6. A whole tapa.
7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps?	7. Butter, milk, mutton, eggs, fowls, fuel, vegetables, grass, potatoes, onions, spices, fish, sugar, jar and cots.
8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps?	8. For the District officer and his establishment cots, jars, earthen baking pans, earthen platters, earthen cups, earthen mutkas or big jars (mutkas).

For the divisional officer and his establishment, cots 30, jars 35, earthen baking pans 2, earthen platters 3, earthen cups 3, earthen mutkas or big jars 2.

9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments?	9. Munshis and clerks are accommodated in zamindars' landhis wherever these are available or in tapadars' deras.
10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps?	10. Landhis are built up with the help of zamindars for stables. Rice straw and stalks and a few pegs are also provided.
11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps?	11. They hold their offices in tents.
12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps?	12. From 20 to 30 zamindari men are supplied.
13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	13. The roads are in good condition.
14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	14. The Mukhtiarkar is responsible for the repairs to roads. The work is done through the malhis.
15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps?	15. Ordinarily no special repairs are undertaken. When the condition of the roads is very bad and they lead to officers' camps the repairs are made with the help of chher supplied by zamindars.
16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters?	16. Officers maintain horses of their own and hired camels on tour, also baggage camels for their kit. Their official establishments also maintain hired camels. Sometimes they require carts the hire for which is paid by them.
17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?	17. Ordinarily tapadar's kotars and in some cases zamindar's men are employed for the conveyance of post.

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

18. There is no regular camping ground in my tapa. Ordinarily the Assistant Collector encamps in the tapa.

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

19. There are no regular camping grounds to prepare but when an officer encamps cheras are supplied by zamindar to make one.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?

20. All are within reach of bania shops.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

21. To none.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

22 and 23. None.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

24. Rasai means provisions etc. supplied to touring officers without payment.

25. For each officer the following articles and others required by the butler are provided:—

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

eggs ½ doz., fowls 2, butter ¼ ser, milk 2 sers, firewood 2 mds., stalks 4 to 12 bundles, mutton 1 ser, rice straw one bundle.

26. For private and official establishments:—

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

milk 15-30 ser, mutton 6-15 ser, firewood 15-35 mds. eggs ½ to 2 doz., fowls 2 to 6, butter ½ to 2 sers. Besides these, other articles are brought from the bania's shop.

27. Rice Rs. 8 to 10 per maund, eggs 6 to 9 annas per dozen, fowls 6 to 10 annas each, sheep 10 to 20 rupees each, milk 0-1-6 to 2 annas per seer, butter ¼ seer to 1¼ seers per rupee, jowari stalks 10 to 20 rupees per 100 bundles, firewood 6 annas a maund.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. Yes.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

29. The daily aggregate cost of all requirements including provisions is from Rs. 20 to 40.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

30. At camps away from any town, besides these articles and others obtained from the bania, fowls, eggs, butter, grass, firewood etc. are collected by the tapadar either by obtaining them from zamindars or by purchasing them in the bazar.

31. How are they paid for?

31. 1. Officers make payments at reduced rates but the money is taken back by their butlers.

2. Private servants or official establishments make no payment. With a view to be on the safe side, they make payment to the bania, obtain his receipt and then recover back the money from the tapadar.

32. Private servants and official establishments of officers never pay for anything They simply tell the tapadar to supply them the things that they want. The tapadar provides the things either by buying them or obtaining them from the zamindars. Neither the tapadars nor the zamindars are paid for the things. The money paid on account of bills of officers is taken back by the butler.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp ?

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

34. If it is greaber, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

33 & 34. No payments are made except in the case of officers. In some places payments are made by the zamindars—generally the tapadars make the payments.

35. Is the excess met out of a ' Rasai ' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

35. All expenses in connection with camps in villages are borne by the tapadar and met from his lapo.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

36. Nothing.

37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

37. We obtain vegetables from bania's shops but receive no payment.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

38. The rules of 1914 were not given effect to because the zamindars did not undertake the responsibility. We obtain the supplies partly on payment and partly from the zamindars.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindar ?

39. In large towns where there are shops selling all things officers should obtain nothing through the zamindars or tapadars. For villages, contractors should be appointed—no contractor could be found for a tapa

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

40. No intimation is given of the things required—intimation is given of camps only.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ?

41. No.

42. Do you give " Dhalis " of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ?

42. No.

43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such " Dhalis " and sheep ? And whence are they obtained ?

43. No dhalis are given.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject ?

44. No answer.

Lapo

45. Lapo means annual payments which the tapadar or officials of other departments levy from zamindars and the general public in lieu of rasai and for their own use.

45. What do you understand by the term Lapo ?

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized ' Lapo ' ?

46. It is of two kinds ; one is a cash payment and the other a payment in kind.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?

47. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapadars, the Registration Department, the Police, the Engineering, Vaccination and Forest Departments from zamindars and the general public and haris in lieu of rasai and for their own use.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ?

48. The tapadar levies it at 0-0-6 to 2 annas per jireb.

The Registration Department levies it at 8 annas to one rupee per cent.

The Police Department levies it in both cash and kind.

The Engineering Department 10 per cent. on contracts.

Rs. 3 from kurmis and naris and from haris in the manner of reaped ears of grain.

The Vaccination Department levies it from villagers in cash.

The Forest Department levies it on Panchari and Government timber.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ?

49. 1-3rd of the tapadar's lapo is spent on rasai, it being converted into a rasai fund for the purpose.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund ?

50. 2 or 3 tapadars manage it here.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ?

51. At jamabandi Rs. 350
At akharsal or close of the year Rs. 200
At inspection of records Rs. 500
Each tapadar besides pays to supervising tapadars and others Rs. 100
These are annual payments.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

52. In the Revenue Department no favour is shown to zamindars for the payment of lapo.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials

53. By the payment the strictness of examination is mitigated.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914

54. Before the rules of 1914 every one paid lapo. Since the rules it is taken from those who pay it willingly—no one is compelled to pay it.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ?

55. No.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ?

56. Rasai can be stopped if zamindars and tapadars have no hand in it. The pay and horse allowance should be doubled as the personal expenses of the tapadar including the feed of the horse amount to Rs. 45 per month. The expenses of his family are apart. Rasai can't be stopped by making changes in the Land Revenue Code.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?

57. Chher means forced labour.

58. Who are the 'Chheras' ?

58. Chheras are haris

59. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch tents, to build landhis, to load and unload kit, to fetch water, to do miscellaneous work and specially to repair roads and to close breaches.

59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

60. The chheras have not been given lands from Government but they are given lands by zamindars to cultivate on condition of their performing such labour

61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?

61. Officers sometimes pay them something in cash. Large zamindars only feed them when they are so employed.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

62. Casual paid labour can be obtained for such work through the zamindars.

63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government

63. There are no beldars in my charge.

64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

64. They are not bound except in the case of serious breaches.

65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

65. No.

66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour?

66. Answered under No. 68.

67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?

67. 5 for divisional office, 15 for district office.

68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?

68. 15 for divisional office.
30 for district office.

69. Whence do they obtain them?

69 They are obtained from the zamindars as chher.

70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

70. Neither the officers nor the zamindars pay them, only well-to-do zamindars feed them.

71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor?

71. The cost will be Rs. 0-6-0 per day per man. Labour could be obtained by the contractor on payment of the fair wage.

72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?

72. The zamindars supply labour for shikar.

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?

73. No answer.

74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

74. No.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

75. When officers encamp beldars alone are not sufficient; additional labour is required on such occasions.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?

76. Nothing.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

77. Haris.

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

78. No answer.

79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

79. It does not cause much loss.

80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

80. That is not the case here.

81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher" or local orders?

81. No

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

82. Chher should be stopped, Khalasis should be appointed to each officer's camp.

Note on Lapo and the Revenue Department.

We do take lapo as a matter of courtesy from zamindars and khatedars in return for services rendered and for good treatment shown to them. This custom has been in existence for centuries; officers have from time to time tried to suppress it but their efforts have failed owing to willingness on the part of the giver to pay and to the special needs of the parties (the tapadar and the khatedars). These needs will be described in detail below. It will then be seen that we take lapo by the force of circumstances, otherwise we do not at all wish to live on unauthorized exactions levied in contravention of the orders of Government.

2. When khatedars come to Head-quarters we provide accommodation, bedding and food for them and look after the animals etc. Owing to these favours such friendly relations have sprung up between them and us that they willingly continue to pay lapo. This causes no loss to Government.

3. We do not gain anything by taking lapo. We on the contrary undergo great calamities. We receive lapo at stated times, i.e., in the months of February and June, but deductions from our pay are made in every month.

Until the time comes for the payment of lapo we are put to great inconvenience and privation. We are compelled to borrow money on interest from banias to defray our personal expenses on food and clothing and to maintain a house which is a disgrace for us.

4. Our pay is of course devoted to rasai. As regards lapo as soon as it is collected it is preyed upon by the establishments of superior officers. Hundreds of rupees are paid in anuities to all from the cooks and kotars of the supervising tapadars upto the establishments of superior officers. This we consider as necessary to preserve our respect and to assure our livelihood. If inspite of our poor circumstances we withhold such payments there is no escape from the claws of the ferocious wolves of peons and of the lions of fierce looking inspecting munshis. Mistakes or no mistakes they will prejudice the officer against the man who has not paid them their anuities. It is therefore absolutely necessary for us to pay the annual tolls.

5. We regard lapo as a deadly poison, even as the destroyer of life. We therefore humbly pray that such an unlawful practice should be condemned, and suppressed as soon as possible to the advantage of the public and ourselves and to the glory of Government.

Unless attention is paid to the following things it is very hard to stop lapo:—

i. Rasai should be rooted out.

ii. The tapadar's records excepting the jamabandi should not be inspected especially at a camp in tapa by any one except the supervising tapadar and the Mukhtiarkar.

iii. During the tour after the inspection of the field work the tapadar should not be allowed to come into the camp or the town of the camp but told to live in a neighbouring village.

iv. Khatedars should be allowed to remit their assessments to treasuries by money order direct, or, if the tapadar must make recoveries, to pay them to the tapadar at headquarters under the strict supervision of the Mukhtiarkar during the 10 days. The tapadars should get the receipt books of khatedars countersigned by the Mukhtiarkar immediately after the payments are made.

v. The following are the monthly expenses of the tapadar :—
Daily expenses including servant's pay:

	Rs.	a.	p.
Morning—			
Atta ¾ seer	0	2	3
Mutton ¼ seer	0	1	6
Ghee 1 chhatak	0	1	6
Spices, etc.	0	0	6
Evening—			
Rice ¾ seer	0	2	3
Ghee	0	1	6
Milk ¼ seer	0	1	3
Fire-wood and water	0	1	3
	0	12	0

At the rate of 0-12-0 a day monthly expenses will amount to	24	4	0
Pay of servant	5	0	0
House rent	4	0	0
Washing charges	1	0	0
Barber	0	8	0
Home expenses	30	0	0
	64	12	0

In view of the above scale of expenses the tapadar's pay should be not less than Rs. 50 per mensem.

vi. Tapadars maintain very strong horses so as to be able to accompany European officers on tour and at the time of partal and to attend to urgent work without any delay. Rs. 10 is therefore not sufficient for the feed of the tapadar's horse. In the Police Department Rs. 25 is the sanctioned allowance for a horse. We should also be granted at least Rs. 25 as horse allowance for our horses do more work than those of the Police.

vii. The tapadar gets 8 annas for contingencies per mensem. As the tapadar uses much stationery and as the prices are very high the allowance should be increased to Rs. 2 at least.

When these requirements of tapadars, which are absolutely necessary are satisfied we shall be able to say with certainty that we have made up our minds never to take lapo, otherwise it is not possible that lapo will be stopped, our needs being what they are.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. GUL-MAHOMED TAPADAR.

To the Chairman:

My tapa is in taluka Larkana. The chheras receive no money for mending the roads.

At the end of the abkalani the regular camels are dismissed and tongas are engaged for the establishment, the hire of which is paid by the tapadars. The servants and the patawallas get on the bullock carts. The usual march of an Assistant Collector's camp is 2-4-6 miles, some times as far as 8. It is the custom for the tapadar to accompany the touring officer upto the limits of his tapa.

The Assistant Collector sometimes makes camps after only a 2 mile march for the purpose of crop inspection.

Firewood varies from 6 to 8 annas a maund. There is no revenue jungle in my tapa fit for the production of firewood.

P. W. D.'s subordinates get lapo at the time of harvesting. The Rs. 100 for the supervising tapadar is for himself and other munshis.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

Lapo is given for the civilities shewn by the tapadars.

The amount of our pay withheld depends upon the expenses of the particular month. It is quite practicable for all the Land Revenue to be paid at one treasury except that one treasurer would not be able to cope with all the work as there are so many khatedars. There is no need for the tapadar to be present at the time of payments. The khatedar gets a bill for the money due from him.

To the Chairman:

The khatedar has only one khata book for all the lands in each deh.

WITTEN EVIDENCE OF DR. GUSTASP.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Dr. N. Gustasp.
2. Appointment.	2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Larkana Division.
3. Head-quarters.	3. Larkana.
4. Length of service.	4. 13 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. About six years.
6. What is the area covered by your tour ?	6. 1,15,399 acres.
7. What is the period of your tour ?	7. Seven months (November to May, both inclusive).
8. What private servants accompany you on tour ?	8. One butler, one cook and one sweeper.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ?	9. One clerk and 3 peons.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ?	10. Rice, flour and spices.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	11. Ghee, milk, meat, eggs, fowls and firewood.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ?	12. My official furniture includes chairs, tables and carpets and private furniture consists of chairs, crockery lamps, cutlery, etc.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ?	13. Nothing additional is needed by me but water jars for office and menials.
14. What tents do you take on tour?	14. One office tent and one raoti for peons.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ?	15. Kacha landhis are constructed where there are no bungalows.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. None.
17. What records do you take on tour ?	17. 3 record boxes containing files, registers and maps and one type-writer.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ?	18. Generally a tent is pitched where there is no bungalow available.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ?	19. Labour is necessary for pitching tents and bringing water.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ?	20. Not in good condition.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?	21. They are being repaired by the Revenue authorities.

22. **Do you require to have speciea1 repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ?**

22. None.

23. **What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters ?**

23. Baggage and riding camels for tour in the district that I engage at Head-quarters for the whole period of my tour.

24. **What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?**

24. Post is fetched from the Post Office to my camp by forest guards.

25. **What are the usual camping places in your charge ?**

25. There are fixed camping places, partly in P.W. D. bungalows, partly in villages near forests.

26. **What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?**

26. Generally maldars keep in order the camping ground where necessary.

27. **Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ?**

27. All.

28. **To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?**

28. In P. W. D. bungalows.

29. **Which of them are provided with bungalows ?**

29. Nasrat ,Naodera, Khalid, Dokri, Gajidero, Radhan, Sita, Dadu, Bhan, Puranodero, Sehwan, Doulatpur and Bilwar.

30. **What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?**

30. Generally a chowkidar.

Rasaï.

31. **What do you understand by the term ' Rasai ' ?**

31. This means the system of supplies provided at camps to touring officers and establishment.

32. **What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?**

32. 6 eggs, 1 to 2 chickens, ½ seer milk and ghee about 4 annas worth.

33. **What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?**

33. For servants—meat occasionally, ghee 1 anna worth.

For office establishment—ghee 4 annas worth meat worth 2 annas.

34. **What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?**

34. Eggs 2 pice each, fowl 4 annas each, milk free, ghee ¾ seer per Rupee.

35. **Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?**

35. None.

36. **What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?**

36. 11 to 15 annas, 3 annas, 6 annas respectively.

37. **How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?**

37. The ranger arranges for the supply of articles of provision with the help of forest guards.

38. I pay the amount for all the supplies on receipt of a bill from the ranger and my establishment whether private or official keep account with the bania to whom it is paid.

38. How are they paid for ?

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?

39. I have no guarantee but have received no complaints.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?

40. No difference.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

41. Not greater.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

42. No excess.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

43. Cots and jars are returned, no material is required for stables.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

44. Vegetables are occasionally purchased from villages and the amount is also included in the bill which is presented to me for payment.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?

45. No.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service ?

46. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

47. This has no concern with the Forest Department.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?

48. This has no concern with the Forest Department.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

49. I arrange to get supplies as described in the answer to question No. 37.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.

50. None.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars ?

51. None.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep ?

52. None.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government ?

53. Flowers and some fruit may be accepted from persons who can afford. No difficulty has been experienced.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. This is being given to tapedars in the Revenue Department by zamindars and the system is not prevalent here.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. I do not know.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Ditto.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per arsessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. Ditto.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. Ditto.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?

59. Ditto.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. Ditto.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. No unauthorized lapo is exacted in matters of forest.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. As far as I know there is no such lapo.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. Ditto

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthor zed 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. No. I have nothing to say about it.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Men employed on free labour.

67. Who are the 'Chheras"?

67. Generally maldars.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. They assist in pitching tent, fetching water and firewood.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. No.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?	70. Here only maldars work as chheras, some of them have got free passes for grazing their cattle in forests.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?	71. None.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?	72. None.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?	73. I have nothing to say on this.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?	74. Ditto
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ?	75. This is required for pitching tent, etc.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?	76. 3 labourers.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?	77. 3 more labourers.
78. Whence do you obtain them ?	78. These are generally the maldars residing in the neighbourhood of camps.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?	79. Nothing.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?	80. Rs. 1-2-0 per day. I can not say about this.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?	81. This can be done.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?	82. I do not require any labour for shikar,
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ?	83. Vide reply given on question No 82.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?	84. Ditto.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?	85. There is no such system of repairing roads here.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ?	86. Vide reply on question no 85 above.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?	87. This is the concern of the P. W. D.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?	88. Ditto

89. **How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?**

89. I have nothing to say on the subject.

90. **How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?**

90. Ditto

91. **Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?**

91. No.

92. **Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government ?**

92. In my opinion chher should be entirely suppressed and labour system on wages should be introduced.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JASHANMAL MURIJMAL.

1. Name. — 1. Jashanmal Murijmal.

2. Appointment. — 2. Mukhtiarkar.

3. Head-quarters. — 3. Mehar.

4. Length of service. — 4. 15 years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 15 years all in Sind. Have worked in the capacity of a clerk, head munshi, Resident Magistrate and Mukhtiarkar.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge? — 6. Mehar taluka.

7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? — 7. Eggs, mutton, fuel, milk and grass, palal, cots and jars. Other things are purchased from bunias shops.

8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? — 8.

	Dy. Collector.	Collector.	Commissioner
Cots ..	15	30	50
Jars ..	20	40	60

9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? — 9. They have got tents or they are accommodated in out houses or bungalows or musafirkhanas or in deras.

10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? — 10. Landhis are built if no stables are available.

11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? — 11. There are office tents.

12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? — 12. About 30 chheras are required for pitching and unpitching the tents and for loading and unloading the kit. About 6 chheras are required daily for filling water, fuel, grass, etc.

13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? — 13. Good except during floods.

14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? — 14. Taluka local boards. Beldars are employed.

15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency to the roads to their various camps? — 15. When special repairs are needed, zamindars supply labour free of charge.

16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? — 16. They engage baggage camels for the whole period of tour.

17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? — 17. The Collector's peons take the post from Larkana to the camp by rail. If the camp is away from the railway station, he hires a tum tum and charges are defrayed by Government. At few of the camps on kachhobhar arrangements were made by mukhtiarkars for the carriage of post from taluka Head-quarters to the camp, kotars were employed for this work. The post of the Deputy Collector is carried by kotars by turns.

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? — 18. (1) Radhan station; (2) Tharri Mohobat; (3) Mehar; (4) Manjan.

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

19. At all these places there are bungalows. Local Board malhis and some times zemindars chher prepare camping ground for the establishment.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?

20. All of them.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

21. Radhan Station, Pranjar or Mehar.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

22. All.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

23. One.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

24. Providing supplies to officers.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

25.	Dy. Collector.	Collector.	Commissioner
Eggs		12	24
Fowls		2	4
Mutton		1 seer	2 seers.
Milk ..	1 seer.	4 seers.	8 seers.
Fuel ..	1 maund.	2 maunds.	4 maunds
Grass ..	4 bundles	8 bundles.	16 bundles.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

26. It is a variable quantity depending upon the number and conduct of servants. On an average the quantity is shown as under per head :—

Sugar ¼ lb., Flour ½ lb., Ghee ¼ lb., Rice ½ lb., Dal ⅛ lb., Milk ½ seer, Mutton 1 pound, vegetables worth 2 pice, butter ⅛ lb., spices ½ anna, fuel ½ maund to 1 maund, jar 1, cot 1.

7. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or, jowari stalks and firewood?

27. Two pice per egg, two annas per seer of milk, 6 to 8 annas per fowl, one rupee for 3 pounds of butter. Fuel and grass are not paid for. Remaining articles are paid for at market price.

8. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. No.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

29. Dy. Collector. Rs. 15 Collector. Rs. 30 Commissioner Rs. 50 including charges of things purchased from bazar.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

30. By tapadars and zamindars.

31. How are they paid for?

31. The bills are given and money is received by the bania and the tapedar.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of the camp?

32. There is no guarantee. They are not retained by the tapedar. They are generally repaid to the officer's butler or the munshis concerned.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

33. The actual cost as shown above is generally borne by the tapedars. But even if partial payments are made, about 20% of the actual expenses is recovered.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

34. The excess is borne by tapedars.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?

35. From rasai fund maintained by tapedars.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?

36. No.

37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?

37. No payments are made.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?

38. The rules have been found to be unworkable The supplies are provided by tapedars.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?

39. Camps should be made as far as possible either at head-quarters or in big villages. The work of distant villages should be supervised by riding from the camp if possible. The whole establishment should be asked to purchase things from bazar. In camps outside the headquarters the touring officer should be content with a small establishment. It is extremely difficult to reserve a contractor. Even if one is secured he should be a salaried servant. He should get advance from Government for incurring expenses in connection with officers' camps. The contractor should have nothing to do with the tapedar or zamindar. I would suggest an alternative. I would propose that small khatedars be given small grants of lands and made patels. They only should be made responsible for the supply of the provisions to touring officers on payment. The officers should try not to encamp at places where there are no patels.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements & of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?

40. Camps are fixed several days ahead. No intimation is given of requirements as there are contractors.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ?

41. No.

42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ?

42. One dalhi of fruit is presented once a year to European officers.

43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis' and sheep ? And whence are they obtained ?

43. The price of such a dalhi varies from Rs. 4 to 6. It is purchased from head-quarters.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?

44. No officer should take such things from zemindars except fruit from gardens possessed by them.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

45. Lapo comes from the word 'Lapo' (handful) In Upper Sind it is known as anagi or fixed amount, levied at the time of assessment.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ?

46. One anna per cultivated jireb on an average or in very rare cases in lump sums from big zemindars

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?

47. Lapo is levied from zemindars by the tapedars for the ostensible purposes of making rasai.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ?

48. See answer No. 55.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpoes into a 'Rasai' fund ?

49. A certain percentage from the realization of a tapedar from lapo is utilized to cover the cost of rasai. Yes, it is converted.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund ?

50. Head-quarter tapedar generall

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ?

51. Money is paid for jamabandi, closing of annual accounts to munshis and tips to peons and servants. This payment is made from the rasai fund.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

52. Zemindars have to pay extra for khanat and khas mokal to tapedars and munshis.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ?

53. A few rupees are paid by a tapedar, whose record is inspected, to inspecting staff in order that his record should be examined leniently.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ?

54. No, only that no physical violence is used.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ?

55. No.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ?

56. 1. Rasai should be stopped. 2. Harfats should not be paid much attention except when there is a very serious mistake. 3. No money order fee should be charged for remitting land revenue. 4. The number of post offices should be increased. 5. Pay of the tapadars and munshis should be raised. 6. Kacheris should be held by Collectors, Deputy Collectors and Mukhtiarkars very often where all important correspondence should be disposed of.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?

57. Chher means labour supplied free.

58. Who are the 'Chheras' ?

58. Zemindars' raj and haris.

59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

59. Pitching and unpitching tents, loading and unloading camels.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by the zamindars ?

60. Yes in the case of new haris and by custom in case of old ones.

61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?

61. They are fed by zemindars.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?

62. Casual labour is not available except at Mehar.

63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government ?	63. About 40 beldars and malhis by Local Funds. No beldar is maintained by Government.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?	64. They are not bound.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?	65. No.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour ?	66. As shewn in paragraph 68.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp ?	67 & 68. Dy. Collector. Collector. Commissioner 2 6 10
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps ?	5 24 40
69. Whence do they obtain them ?	69. From zemindars.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?	70. They are paid by zemindars.
71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor ?	71. About 8 annas per head per day. No.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar ?	72. From zemindars.
73. What do they pay the men ? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment ?	73. They are generally paid bakhshish.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?	74. Only food.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?	75. At the time of special repairs, 15 or 20 men are required every day for about a week.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials ?	76. They are fed by zemindars.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?	77. Zemindari labour. Generally those supply labour who are affected by breaches; 50 to 300 men are required looking to the nature and extent of the work.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindar or by Government ?	78. Food twice a day by the P. W. D. or wages if they like.
79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?	79. Depends upon the season when breach occurs.
80. How far does employment of 'beldars' interfere with the ordinary work under the Local Boards ?	80. It does not interfere much as a rule.
81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher" or local orders ?	81. No.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.	82. Chher appears to me to be indispensable for repairing roads during floods, breaches, for clearance of canals and for pitching and unpitching tents but they should be paid adequately.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. AHMEDI SON OF ALIGOHAR KURESHI ZAMINDAR.

1. Name. — 1. Ahmedi, son of Haji Aligohar Koreshi.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindari.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. — 3. About one thousand acres of land. I pay about Rs. 2,000 land revenue.

4. Residence. — 4. Pat, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Chairman Sanitary Committee, District Local Board Member, and Honorary Magistrate.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Through making rasai at the bungalows of officers I secured the satisfaction of officers.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 50 years.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Within the limits of my taluka.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. From the Commissioner in Sind down to the Mukhtiarkar.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. All kinds of supplies according to the butler's instructions

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11 We get on payment grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, mutton, vegetables and firewood.

12 Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. — 12. Milk and stalks if not in our stock are obtained on payment and supplied; the burden of supplying the other things lies on the chair holders. The chair is the cause of this.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rate? — 13. Grain and rice at market prices, eggs 6 pies each, fowls 6 annas each, sheep from Rs. 10 to 15 each, butter at prevailing rates, vegetables are obtained partly from the local fund gardens and partly on payment from banias, firewood at 4 annas a maund.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. No answer.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. We leave the work of supplying firewood for camps to our haris for which we feed them.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. According to butlers' statements it varies from Rs. 5 to 10.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. The daily cost is 8 annas per man.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. The daily cost per munshi is Re. 1 per day.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. It depends on the strength of the establishment.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. No.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. It falls on us only.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. Nothing is paid and nothing is received.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. One rupee is the daily hire for a horse or a camel; Rs. 1-8-0 for a cart; we receive no payment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. The daily cost in the case of the Mukhtiarkar and his establishment is Rs. 10, of Public Works Department men Rs. 5, of the supervising tapadar including his kotar, and private servant Rs. 2, the Police Inspector is generally a guest of some-body, of the tapadar at the time of partal and bigoti measurement Re. 1. We receive no payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. Can't say.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. We make rasai ourselves as regards provisions. The cash payments are made by the tapadars to peons and private servants.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. We receive no payment. Bills for officers are prepared by the tapadar who receives the payment.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. Yes.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. There is no solution except to appoint independent contractors;

(2) touring of the officials should be curtailed

(3) the establishment on tour should be curtailed and should be prevented from resorting to illegal ways.

7. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Yes. I can't say how much it costs. It is left to one's option.

8. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means a handful but it is growing from day to day.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments.

40. There are different forms of lapo, according to the status of different officials. Lapo is generally levied in the Revenue Department, it is also levied in the Public Works Department. The Police Department do not levy it.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Lapo is levied at a rate varying from 1 to 3 annas a rupee and at some places from 2 to 4 annas per acre.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. The supervising tapadar receives a lump sum from Rs. 20 to 50 from chair holder zamindars. The tapadar levies it per rupee or per acre as also receives a fee per number on khas mokal grants.

The darogha levies from Rs. 2 to 5 per karia, Rs. 1-4 per wheel. The canal jamadar levies a rupee per karia, 4 annas per wheel and a toya of grain and a load of reaped ears of corn per heap. The forest ranger one rupee per acre. The forest jamadar 4 annas per acre and something from maldars.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Lapo and anagi are said to be levied for the purpose of making the rasai of big officials. We pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Unauthorized lapo is paid for paying money presents to the private and official establishments of touring officers. We pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. We make these presents with a view to secure their good will. These payments are made in addition to the daily allowances.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is paid lest they make groundless reports against us and put us to trouble and expense.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Answered under No. 42.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. No amount is fixed and therefore I can't say

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No. On the contrary there is the money order charge to pay.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. (1) Rasai should be stopped.

(2) All kinds of correspondence should be decided by the Mukhtiarkar at kacheries in the presence of the zamindars and tapadars concerned. Kabuliats should be written out by the zamindars themselves on printed forms to be supplied to them.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour supplied for camps of officers.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Chheras are haris and other hired labourers.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To pitch tents, to bring water, firewood and grass, to repair local fund roads, to close breaches and to clear canals.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Yes.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. Chheras are given 3 meals a day while so employed. Labourers are paid at the rate of 8 annas per day. They do not receive even half wages from Government.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. According to the strength of establishment from 10 to 50 chheras.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. For bringing provisions, water, stalk, and firewood 10 chheras are required daily. For pitching tents and making camping grounds see answer under 57.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. See answer under No. 56.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. From 25 to 100 chheras according to the conditions of the shikar.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come leaving their work under the compulsion of zamindars who feed them.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. The chair-holder zamindars specially are responsible for the repairs to Local Board roads. The number of chheras supplied depends upon the condition of the roads.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. They are of special benefit to the officers.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. They get nothing from Government. The zamindars feed them and also pay them wages.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number of chheras required depends upon the circumstances of each case.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. Please see answer under 56.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Casual paid labour is available to a small extent and with difficulty because the men are mostly haris.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF SETH TOURMAL.

Preliminary

1. Name.	1. Seth Tourmal, son of Seth Kewalram.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindari and banking.
3. Extent of business or zamindari Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. Income tax about Rs. 200 and land revenue about Rs. 4000.
4. Residence.	4. Shikarpur.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. Municipal member and Commissioner's darbari.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. Providing provisions and preparing camping grounds and providing other supplies and chher for officers' camps.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. 27 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Larkana, Mahiota, Gokalpur and Kahran-jo-gote.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar and others.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. Firewood, milk, grass, mutton, butter, flour, rice etc.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. Grain, rice, butter, vegetables and firewood are bought. As regards milk, some is obtained from haris and the rest bought.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. A shopkeeper is directed to supply these articles and I pay for them. I take no money contribution from any body.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates?	13. I pay according to market rates.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Yes, they have.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. I buy firewood and do not bring it from the jungles. A maund costs 7 to 8 annas.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. It is not a fixed charge and hence I cannot say what it amounts to.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. Cannot say.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?

20. Cannot say.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

22. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 150.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. None at all. Officers pay their bills but the money is retained by the butler. No payment is made by their private servants, official staff and clerks.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Munshis are lodged in our otaks but when they are too many to be accommodated in them, kacha huts are erected for them.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment.

26. The mats and timber cost a little but I receive no payment for them.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. I supply horses and bullock carts.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. I supply my own horses and obtain bullock carts from haris who make up the required number between them.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for Mukhtiarkars, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

30. Cannot give the figure as there is no uniformity of practice. No payment is made.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. The cost is not a fixed charge. No estimate can be made. It fluctuates.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I place a shop keeper at the disposal of the tapedar and supervising tapedar. I contribute my quota to the expenses. My cousins also pay their share

35. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. Neither the tapadar nor the contractor makes arrangements fo rasai in my deh.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars. Without the aid of the tapedar or zamindar, no contractor can make arrangements.

35. Would it be phssible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Cannot say with certainty.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Officers on tour should pay for things, where they are procuable and should not unnecessarily throw the burden on zamindars. Where articles are not procurable, arrangements should be made by a bania to supply them with articles on market rates.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I give fruit, vegetables and dhalis. As regards cost, I cannot give the exact figure, as it varies.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. No. It should not be stopped. Dhalis should be permitted.

Lapo.

39. One anna per rupee paid to tapedars and annual payments in cash or in kind made to subordinate officers of the Public Works Department, daroghas and mukadams for khuhadas and karias.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments?

40. It is levied in all departments. Further information has been given under answer to Question No. 39.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. There is not one form but many.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Subordinate officers levy it for their own use as a matter of custom.

43 Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I make rasai as well as pay lapo. Subordinate officers also pay from their lapo for sundry expenses.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Private servants of officers receive tips as well as lapo from zamindars. Tapedars also pay them from their lapo.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. These amounts are not fixed. They are paid for no specific purpose but as a long established custom. Sometimes they take the form of daily allowances.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. No favour is shown. They are paid in accordance with custom.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Cannot say.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. Cannot say.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. It has not been reduced.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the Mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Lapo could be stopped if district officers would make the endeavour and be strict. There is no other way to stop it.

Chher.

52. Chher means labour supplied for pitching and striking tents at officers' camps, preparing camping grounds, fetching water, collecting supplies, repairing roads and closing breaches in canals and bunds.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are zamindar's haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. This has been answered under No. 52.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Land is not given on condition that chher will be supplied. Chher is taken from haris in accordance with custom.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. I give chheras cooked or uncooked food. Officers pay nothing.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. From 25 to 100

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps

58. From 5 to 25.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. This has been answered under No. 56.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. I have never given chheras for shikar.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. Chheras respond to our call in accordance with custom. No force is resorted to but they do not come willingly. They come unwillingly in obedience to custom. I think chheras for shikar get some payment from officers.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the ro[illegible] the Local Boards?

62. Yes, they are requisitioned but how many I cannot say.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Such repairs are made principally for the benefit of officers and to please them. The public also derive benefit from them for a short time.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. Chheras are given cooked or uncooked food by me. They do not get anything from officers or local boards.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. This depends upon the amount of work involved. Where there is a big breach, a larger number of chheras is supplied. When the amount of work is small, the number of chheras supplied is small.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. I give them cooked food. Officers give nothing.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Cultivation suffers when during cultivation season chheras are called away from their work and kept on the closing of breaches.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. During cultivation season a few labourers can be had with difficulty. In winter they can be had but in small numbers.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. During cultivation season they cannot be procured by a contractor without the help of a zamindar. In winter they can be procured independently of zamindars on payment of advances and full wages.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Chher should not be abolished so far as the closing of breaches and the repairing of roads is concerned, but Government should pay them their wages. Chher for other purposes should be abolished. If chheras are required in connection with camps and for other purposes, men should be kept on the monthly system for these purposes

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SADHUSING MORUSING

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Sadhusing Morusing.

2. Occupation. — 2. Pensioner and petty land holder.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. — 3. Income Tax Rs. 85-5-0 a year and Land Revenue about Rs. 700 a year jointly with 4 brothers.

4. Residence. — 4. Banguldero, Taluka Ratodero.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Nil.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. The supply of provisions and the like to Government officials at their camps.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. I know about rasai for the past 32 years but have never made it personally.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. As a private person the rasai is made on my behalf as a land holder at one camp *viz.* Banguldero.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. Collector, Deputy Collector, Mukhtiarkar, etc.

10 to 33. — 10 to 33. As the practice differs in different places and I have remained absent on service till the 4th January last, I am unable to give accurate information as regards the practice which has prevailed at Banguldero, my residence.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? — 34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars because generally they appear to be unwilling workers. I also do not consider it possible to find contractors independent of tapadars and zamindars as none would be available for each and every case.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? — 35. It would not be possible to find contractors to make rasai of various officers moving at one and the same time in the same taluka or division as the business would not prove lucrative for the contractor.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? — 36. The objections to make rasai are that it is not properly paid for and creates an inconvenient and awkward position for the person making it. The Government should impress upon officers :—

1. to make a determined effort to abolish the system,
2. to confine their camps to Taluka Head-quarters or to such other outside villages where the supplies could be purchased in local market,
3. to take as little clerical or menial establishment on tour as possible and to leave the rest at the Officer's own Head-quarter or Taluka Head-quarter.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? — 37. I have no personal knowledge about this.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. The presenting of dhalis should be prohibited by Government where the practice exists.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. The term lapo means an unauthorized annual perquisite.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

40. It is levied in the Revenue Department in cash either on a jireb or a survey number of cultivated area or on a rupee of land revenue. I have experience of its being levied in the Revenue Department. It is levied in other Departments also but I have no definite knowledge of it.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

41. Vide answer 40.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?

42 and 43. In the Revenue Department it is levied by the tapadar as his own perquisite as also for meeting rasai expenses and making money presents to various establishments. Sometimes rasai is also made to some extent in addition to the lapo.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?

44. *Money presents to private and official establishments of touring officers are made out of lapo.* Such presents are not made in addition to the lapo paid.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?

45. I have no personal knowledge about this.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

46. The unauthorized lapo is not exacted for favours in particular but in general.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?

47. I have no personal knowledge about this. It differs in different places.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?

48. Ditto ditto.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?

49. In some places it has been reduced and at others not.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars ?

50. The amount has been reduced to some extent.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?

51. Frequent determined efforts on part of Government officers will alone prevent the payment of lapo.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?

52. The term Chher means gratuitous labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. The chheras are either haris or hired labourers.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. The chheras are called on to perform various duties, for instance helping in shikar, pitching and unpitching tents, repairing roads and rendering other camp services.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. The chheras do not hold lands on condition of performing such services but the most of the haris however do help the influential zamindars in rendering such services.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. When so employed the haris do not get any renumeration from the zamindars except that they are fed by the zamindars on occasions. The Government officers sometimes remunerate the chheras at the time of shikar but not to the proportion of the services rendered.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. The number of chheras required at the camps of the different officers differs proportionately to the amount of services to be rendered.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. About 20 chheras are required daily for bringing water, supplies and rendering such other services and about twice the number for preparing the ground, pitching and striking camps of a Collector.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. No, except in cases of hired labourers sometimes engaged by zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. I cannot give the exact number of chheras required for shikar but they are more than the number required for camps.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. Generally they do not come forward willingly They do get some presents from officers but not always in proportion to the amount of services rendered. I am not aware as regards payments from zamindars.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. The number of chheras required for road repairing depends upon the extent of work to be done.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Such road repairs are beneficial both to the public and to officers but they are executed only when officers are expected to walk on a road requiring repairs and the departmental labour, if any, is unequal to the work.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number of chheras required at a breach depends upon the extent of the breach or flood.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. There is no hard and fast practice about payment which is sometimes made by Government or Raj and sometimes not at all.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. The employment of chheras does at times interfere with cultivation and causes loss both to haris and zamindars.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Casual paid labour is available in this neighbourhood to a limited extent and at fixed times.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. It could then be provided by a contractor independently of a zamindar.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. The chher ought to be abolished except in unavoidable circumstances.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. TAHILRAM MULCHAND.

1. **Name.** — 1. Tahilram Mulchand.

2. **Occupation.** — 2. Editor, Larkana Gazette, Larkana.

3. **Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.** — 3. Six years. No.

4. **Residence.** — 4. Larkana.

5. **Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.** — 5. No.

Rasai.

6. **What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?** — 6. Rasai is a provision of supplies with nominal or no payment for the comforts of touring officers, their establishment, peons and private servants.

7. **How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?** — 7. I have no personal experience of making rasai as I am not a zamindar. But whatever knowledge I passess in respect of it I have gathered it in the capacity of editor during the last six years by directly coming in contact with various officials, zamindars, haris and other people having dealings with officers of almost all the departments.

8. **What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?**

9. **What officers frequent those camping grounds?** — 8 and 9. I am not a zamindar therefore I cannot name what camping grounds there are and what officers frequently visit those camping grounds.

10. **What supplies do those officers require for themselves?** — 10. I know that all kinds of foodstuffs, other necessaries nay articles of luxuries and comforts also, e.g. liquor, aerated waters, etc., dry fruit which are requisitioned by the touring officers are supplied either gratis or on a nominal payment.

11. **Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?** — 11. I know most of the provisions are obtained from zamindars without any payment and the rest are purchased by the tapedar from a bania with whom a running account is maintained. The liquor is sent from distant places.

12. **Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?** — 12. I know that zamindars get from haris who are virtually the sole sufferers because the zamindar exacts money from them at the time of the touring officer's tour to cover the cost of tours or levies in kind a fixed proportion of corn at the time of batai.

13. **Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?** — 13. I know that zamindars do not pay the haris for anything that they get from them but if anything is not obtainable from the haris they even purchase it from the bazar.

14. **Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?** — 14. Every commodity has now-a-days value as how-much-so-ever remote a village may be, it is connected with one or the other centre of market to which the produce of the village could be carted for sale. It therefore does not stand to reason to even think that anything specially milk and stalks for which there is so much demand in these days owing to the increase of population could have no value in the mofussil.

15. **Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?** — 15. I have heard zamindars say that often they purchase fuel to supply them to the touring officers.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ?

16. I am told that the daily expenses generally vary with the kind of officers and their butlers.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ?

17. I know that provisions have to be supplied for the private servants and official staff of the officers.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

18. I am told that the average daily cost depends upon the number of men in each case.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. I know that the supplies are provided for the clerks of the officers also.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. Same as 18.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. I know that jars, etc., are supplied to the touring officers.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. These things are obtained gratis from zamindars except jars which are forcibly taken from village patters.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. I know that no payments are made for these things.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The loss undoubtedly falls on haris and poor squatters as zamindars take from them gratis.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. I know that invariably establishments are housed in the houses of poor men and some times kucha landhies are put up for their use.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. No payment is received by a zamindar even if he has to spend anything on the said arrangements.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Generally establishments engage their own camels but at the fag-end of the touring season the clerks in order to save allowance dismiss their camel men and get conveyance from zamindars.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. They make no payments to zamindars for such conveyances.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Yes, the zamindar makes rasai for all the officers mentioned.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. The cost varies with the kind of officers and generally no payment is made.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. I am not a zamindar, therefore have no personal knowledge of this.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. I know that tapedar is in charge of rasai.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. I know that there are no contracting zamindars. The bills are prepared by tapedar with the consultation of butlers and servants. Such bills are bogus bills and do not represent even 1/10th of what has actually been requisitioned and prices shown therein are ridiculously low. Whatever little payment that is to be made by the touring officers goes to the pockets of butlers and servants because they are too reluctant to see their master's money going to the pockets of others who, they believe, have no claim on it.

34, 35, 36, 37 & 38. The system of giving contracts to zamindars is as bad and unworkable as is the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars. Both the systems are fore-doomed to failure so long the present administrative machinery so far the tours are concerned is what it is. It is inconceivable to a layman as to why there should be an agency for the supply of provisions to Government servants, when commercial travellers, both Europeans and Indians, and officers of the Educational Department going to villages can get them without such agency. I firmly believe that any system that may be devised would have only transient success, so long the root cause of the evil is not effectively tackled. The root-cause is the tour itself. Most of it is unnecessary and entails financial loss on the Government on one hand and misery on the rayat on the other hand. People do not view it in the perspective in which it is viewed by the Government. It is mostly for the benefit of the touring officers and their establishment who are naturally unwilling to do without it. It is therefore firmly believed that if the stopping of the rasai is to be a reality and not to remain a pious wish, the root-cause should be removed, that is, tour should be as little as possible with minimum of establishment and should be confined to big villages from which the neighbouring villages may be visited by the touring officers during the course of the day. There should be no agency whatsoever for the supply of provisions which may be purchased from the bazar by the touring officers and their establishment. I believe it would be absurd to stop rasai and the time will show that without the adoption of such a drastic policy, all talk about the stopping of rasai is nothing but moonshine. Any agency for the supply of stores would be nothing but a tinkering of the reform. It would in course of time degenerate and make the evil of rasai fall into its usual grooves to run its smooth course. The evil is too deep-rooted and therefore what is required is not a tinkering policy but a root and branch reform to eradicate it. The evil has assumed such serious proportions in all the Departments that it would be in the interest of administration that it should be stopped as early as possible. There is no excuse for the continuation of the system and it is absurd to argue that its strength lies in the hospitality of the zamindar. Such an argument is indefensible and is opposed to human nature because if rasai were hospitality to touring officers it would be extended to them at all times even after their transfer and retirement. The zamindar makes rasai sometimes out of fear and sometimes with an eye to ulterior good e.g. obtainment of chair, license of gun, grant of titles and now-a-days Bench Magistrate-ship. The Mukhtiarkars make it for their own advancement.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you refer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

Similar is the case with dhalis. The present of them therefore is morally as indefensible as the making of rasai. Such a practice should therefore be prohibited with a strong hand.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. Lapo means an illegal exaction levied mainly for the purpose of making rasai for the touring officers and their establishment.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

40. It is levied in all the Departments in one way or the other.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

41. It is levied in different forms, sometimes in lump sum, sometimes at fixed rates etc.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?

42. It is levied by the said Government servants for making rasai of touring officers and their establishment.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of "Rasai" for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. My information is that the zamindars pay lapo in addition to the contributions towards the cost of rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

44 & 45. I do not know.

46. The authorized lapo is paid because the zamindars feel that if they do not pay it they will be harassed in diverse ways by the Government servants of different Departments; as for an instance in the Police Department zamindar gives lapo in order to be safe from false reports and, false prosecutions, immediate insults and maltreatment at the hands of the subordinate police officers.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. I have no definite information.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I know that zamindars have to pay lapo at some fixed rate.

49. No. On the contrary it has been on the increase and has always an upward tendency. In Larkana District during the last twelve months it has increased so enormously that it has assumed the form of scandal:

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No. Even in this case the same lapo has to be paid.

51. I am of opinion that even if rasai is stopped, lapo will not stop. Its levy may be slightly reduced with the stopping of rasai but it will altogether stop when its root-causes are removed. Such root-causes are inadequacy of pay, poor prospects for promotions, want of consideration for merit and education and above all want of encouragement for honesty. If such root-causes are not removed, it will be idle to, believe, how much so ever stringent the watch may be, that lapo will disappear. Empty stomach, it is said, bears no argument. It is therefore futile to expect morality from most of the clerks and tapedars who are paid a starvation wage and consequently whose stomachs are empty.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means the system of enforced labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are haris, cultivators and other poor villagers.

54. They are called on to do menial work e.g. they are asked to pitch tents, etc. for the touring officers, to fetch water and to work as boy-servants to butlers, servants and peons of officers and their establishment.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

55. If they are haris and cultivators they perform the labour at the instance of zamindars in obedience to the duty they feel towards them as their tenants. But if they are poor villagers, I mean non-haris and non-cultivators, they go to work through the fear of being hauled up under Chapter 8 through the agency of zamindars

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. I have no personal knowledge of this but I am told that they receive no cash payments from either zamindars or officers. They at the most are given meals by the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. The number varies with the kind of officer.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. Ditto

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. Only meals from zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. The number varies with the kind of officer and the arrangement made by the zamindar for shikar.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They do not come willingly but under pressure from zamindars with whom they have got daily dealings. Only meals is given by zamindar.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. Chheras are sent by zamindars to give help in repairing the roads but the number depends upon the kind of work to be done and the length and breadth of the road to be repaired.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. The roads are generally repaired and put in good order at the time of the touring season and are often neglected after the touring season is over. Thus they are of more benefits to the officers than to the public.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards?

64. They get nominal wages sometimes from Local Boards and sometimes from zamindars.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. It depends upon the extent of flood and breach.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They are nominally paid sometimes by P. W. D. and sometimes by zamindars.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. It certainly does interfere with the cultivation business as practically during the whole touring season the cultivation work goes on.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Casual paid labour is everywhere available.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. It could be procured on the payment of proper wages.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. I am of opinion that chher ought to be altogether abolished. I feel quite confident that P. W. D. or any other officers will see no difficulty in securing workmen at the time of any emergency provided they loosen their coffer and be ready to pay them proper wages. The system of chheras is a relic of feudalism mediaeval and no civilized Government should tolerate it for even a single day.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. LALCHAND NAVALRAI.

1. Name.	1. Lalchand Navalrai.
2. Occupation.	2. Pleader.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. 25 year's practice at the Bar in old Shikarpur District and Larkana. Rs. 700 Income-tax.
4. Residence.	4. Larkana.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. Nil.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

6. Giving all supplies necessary or otherwise to officers of all grades, their establishment, including menial and personal, free of cost or in the case of few at a nominal cost when on tour or in the case of a few officers some supplies are given even at the head-quarters, during non-circuiting time

The object of making rasai is to curry favours, get honours, grant of land and to avoid the dis-pleasure of the officers and to keep the establishment pleased with a view to gain the above objects with ease.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?

7. I possess a very small holding of arable land. I have no personal experience of having made rasai myself, but during my extensive practice, I have had to attend various camps of Revenue and Magisterial Officers in the taluka headquarters and several out of way places. I have remained in touch with the zamindars and the haris and revenue officers and their establishments. I have seen how rasai is made and have much information about its hardship.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?

8. No answer

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?

9. Encamping officers for whom rasai is made are the Commissioner-in-Sind, the *Collector, Revenue Sub-Divisional Officers, Mukhtiarkars, the Executive Engineers, their Sub-Divisional Officers including Overseers and Sub-Overseers, Educational Inspector and Inspectress, Judicial Commissioner* and District Judges; District Superintendents of Police, their Assistants and Deputies, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, Divisional Forest Officers and Rangers; the Manager, Encumbered Estates.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?

10. Fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass and gram for horses, sheep-meat, fire wood, maido, rice, flour, sugar, potatoes, vegetables, fish, fruits and spices.

11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

11. Maido, vegetables, fish, fruit are obtained from towns; now-a-days firewood is mostly purchased from the neighbouring large villages, from rice thrashing factories or from towns. Fruits and vegetables in the case of the camps of the Commissioner and Collector are sent for either from Sukkur or Karachi. Special kinds of liquors are sent for also from the above places.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?

12. Except milk and grass the other things are purchased with money. Now-a-days sometimes even grass is purchased with money. Milk and grass are collected from haris and small khatedars.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?

13. Tapedars or zamindars pay at bazar rate, the average rates at which they are purchased are fowl, 6 to 8 annas; eggs 6 pies per each; butter one seer for a rupee; fish 8 annas; fuel 6 annas per maund when purchased from villages and 12 annas per maund from towns; maido five seers a rupee; sugar 3 seers a rupee; sheep from from Rs. 12 to 14 each.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?

14. Yes, as the haris take milk, grass and fuel for sale to big villages and towns even when they are situated at some distance.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?

15. Much quantity of firewood is not obtainable from jungles, but when fuel is procured from the jungles its cost comes to 2 annas a maund for cutting and carting.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?

16. Quantity to be supplied depends upon the officer's butler. The officer himself is indifferent to enquire about it and the supplier has to seek the pleasure of the butler. If he pays what he wants then an ordinary demand will be made, otherwise, however, enormous supplies are made, the butler will find opportunities to displease his officer by reporting that no sufficient rasai is made. The quantity ordinarily demanded for an European officer per day is as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Fowls 2	0	12	0	Gram 4 seers each horse	0	8	0
Eggs 1 dozen ..	0	6	0	Fish	0	8	0
Butter ½ seer ..	0	8	0	Vegetables and fruits average per day ..	1	0	0
Fuel 2 maunds ...	0	12	0	Juar karbi about 10 bundles			

Milk 2 seers (if the Sahib has dogs then 4 seers) .. .. ..

Usual daily cost per each such officer is Rs. 5, besides the supply of milk and grass.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?

17. Yes; supplies are made for the private servants and official staff of such officers.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?

18. For every syce, sweeper, washer-man, and water-bearer, butler and bearer—Mutton ½ seer and one fowl. Milk one seer. Fuel 10 seers. 8 annas in cash for other necessaries. Camel-men each; flour one seer; ghee one chatak. Some times they are given a fowl or a seer of mutton for all camel-men.

Peons each. Meat ½ seer, ghee 2 chataks, flour ½ seer, rice ½ seer, fuel 10 seers, milk one seer.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?

19 Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?

20. Each munshi or clerk gets daily—

	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
One chatak butter	0	1	0	Mutton ½ a seer	0	3	0
Half a seer flour	0	2	6	Vegetables	0	1	0
One chatak sugar	0	0	6	One fowl sometimes ..	0	6	0
Two eggs each	0	1	0	Milk one seer	0	2	0
One pau ghee	0	5	0	Spices and almonds, etc...	0	3	0
Sugar candy ½ a pau	0	1	3				
Rice one pau	0	1	0	Excluding fowl	1	5	3

Liquors are sometimes supplied to the officers; one or two brandy bottles used to be supplied to the clerks and the munshis, but now they get country liquor.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

21, 22. Jars are brought from potters without money. If no potter is available tapedar pays for them. The potters get lapo in lieu of the jars supplied at the time of harvest from zamindars and khatedars. Cots are supplied by villagers without cost. Some officers sometimes carry cots for their own use. Landhis are constructed for stables and servants of the clerks and munshis.

The materials are supplied by zamindars who collect from haris and villagers without payment. The remnant of the materials is returned to their owners after the camp is removed.

23 and 33. Full payment is never made. The bill is prepared by the tapedar at the suggestion of the butler and is often approved of by the mukhtiarkar. Many a time enquiries are made as to what the officer paid at the camps he visited in the adjoining taluka and whether he showed his willingness for payment and then the bill is made accordingly. Some of the supplies are not usually entered in the bill and the rest of the supplies are valued at low prices. The quantity actually supplied is often less.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

Thus the officers pay about ¼ of the value of the articles actually supplied. The money paid by the officer for the bill is returned to the butler. The establishment including private servants never pay for the articles supplied to them.

Modi gives a receipt to them without actual payment. But if they pay ostensibly it is returned to them only a moment after.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The burden of the cost falls on the khatedars who pay in proportion to the area of the land they possess. The petty khatedars pay their share of cost at the time of harvest either to the modi or zamindar. When the tapedar pays it he receives either on the spot from all khatedars through the zamindar of the village or at the time of receiving land revenue in the form of lapo which varries with the amount spent on rasai.

25. Quarters are mostly provided for the munshies and clerks of the Assistant Collectors and Deputy Collectors and the mukhtiarkars and their establishment.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. No additional cost is incurred on this account.

27. Some camels and horses are kept in readiness at the camps of the Commissioner and the Collector. They are also used for bringing fruit, vegetables, fish and post etc. They are sometimes used by the establishment. Carts are provided both to officers and their establishment. Sometimes carriages.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

28. Nothing. Horses, camels and carriages are supplied by the zamindars. Cartmen are paid ½ of the usual charges by officers and nothing by the establishment.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

29, 30. Yes. The rasai for the mukhtiarkar is made by the tapedar or the zamindar and mostly nothing is paid. Whatever nominal is sometimes paid it is returned either to his naik or the private servant. Arrangements for supervisors, overseers and sub-overseers of the P. W. D. are made by darogas, and the supervisors through the darogas do the same for the Executive Engineer. Burden falls on the cattle owners and khatedars who in their daily life fear the darogas and their assistants since they can easily send their cattle to the pound and close their watercourses suddenly or even prosecute them on the pretext of cutting trees.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

Zamindars make arrangements for the Police Department, the inspectors and sub-inspectors are profusely supplied and sometimes they enjoy at their cost the luxury of hearing reputed singers. When they go for investigation of the crime the cost falls on the complainant, failing him, on the zamindar of the village. The zamindars and the khatedars are mortally afraid of the Police and hence they give even without asking. Maldars and zamindars who get land within forest limits make rasai for the Forest Department through the forest guards.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. Mostly tapedars and sometimes zamindars. There are no contracting zamindars.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. Contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars would be preferable. The tapedar or the zamindar should have absolutely no hand in the matter. Contractors should be independent men taken preferably from the head-quarters.

35. It will be possible to find such contractors if they get guarantee for reasonable remuneration and convenience and advances from Government. It is worth while to give this system a trial and it is very likely to be successful if the head of the district takes care to see that they are not harrassed or discouraged.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

36. Rasai is at the climax in Sind. Larkana District heads the list. The zamindars hanker after the honours and vie with each other in making the rasai. Khatedars and the poor hari are the victims of it. It has absolutely a demoralising effect and the earlier it is eradicated the better.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

I am confidently of opinion that the rasai cannot be stopped unless the head of the district becomes sincere, determined and persistent to stamp it out. In that case many devices are not needed for remedying it and the other officials are sure to follow suit. The mukhtiarkar takes it for granted that the paper resolutions and orders are a mere show. They go by the practical conduct of the officials. To put it in the words of a mukhtiarkar who had a talk with me on this point, mukhtiarkars have not got mad to involve themselves into this demoralising business if they are taken into confidence by the head of the district and earnestly told not to make rasai and are guarded against unnecessary fault finding by the subordinate munshis who know how to mis-represent the most ordinary error of the mukhtiarkar's office.

The next step is to curtail to a very great extent the period of circuit. The present enormous time has the effect of making the officer go twice over the same place in one season and encamping at smaller places, in the case of Assisstant and Deputy Collectors at about 4 miles distance from each camp.

In the case of the Commissioner and the Collectors the circuit should be confined to the head-quarter stations and if it be not possible to go round from there in the interior of the country the camps elsewhere should be very few and in big villages and the provisions should in that case be procured from the head-quarter towns and taken along or sent for over there. If there be any practical difficulty in this, independent contractors should be secured from the district towns. The present system of daily allowance to the mukhtiarkars is tempting for them to make unnecessary camps out of the head-quarters. Stopping rasai seriously, will require the raising of the pay and allowances of the subordinate officials and servants as then the menial servants and camel-men who now go willingly with them on the present small pay owing to rasai will surely make them pay more. Every thing has gone dear and their salaries require revision to make both ends meet and to give up the rasai temptation of receiving cash payments. In the case of purchases from independent contractors I would suggest that the officers and their subordinates should give indents on printed duplicate forms ;the bills thereon should be prepared and payment received from the Government Treasury and the amounts deducted from the travelling allowances or salaries of respective official or servant.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?

37. Zamindars and mukhtiarkars do present dhalis of fruit and vegetables, sometimes sheep to officers. Each dhali excluding sheep costs from 5 to 10 and including it 15 to 25.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. Yes. At once.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

39, 40. It is an unauthorised payment to a tapedar, daroga, jamadar of the Police Department, sub-ranger and ranger in the Forest Department which in the case of tapedar is called angi.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?

41, 42. Tapedar receives it from all zamindars and khatedars at the time of recovering land assessment. It is recovered at different rates in different talukas. It is either paid one anna to 2 annas per rupee or 2 annas per jireb. A greater portion of this lapo goes to the payment of annuities to various munshis and clerks, peons of various officers in Revenue Department.

Police ; There is no fixed kind of lapo in the Department. The subordinates such as jamadars, sub-inspectors receive from zamindars or haris for not sending them under Section 110, Criminal Procedure Code or for recommending zamindars for arms, chairs, airin-namas.

Public Works Department : Darogas collect from khatedars in cash or in kind. Latter from those who have khuhadas on the canals in lieu of favour done or harm avoided in the matter of supply of water.

Forest Department : The rangers and sub-rangers receive payment in cash or kind from cattle-ownersf or freely grazing in the forest and from contractors percentage on bills paid and zamin- dars who cultivate within the forest limits.

43. Yes. Payment for rasai is seperately paid to a tapedar for incurring rasai expenses out-side the head-quarter stations. But in case of head-quarter expenses zamindars never pay separately except when the Commissioner encamps. This is defrayed from a general fund subscribed to by the tapedars in consideration of receiving lapo.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

44. Yes. No such payments are made by the zamindars. The presents are only made in the form of annuities to private and official establishment of the touring officers from the 'angi' received by tapedars and percentage from contractors received by the overseers and sub-overseers of the Public Works Department.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. The usual amount paid as annuities are as follows:—

Assistant Collector's Office : Head munshi from Rs. 100 Head Clerk from Rs. 50. Second munshi from Rs. 40 Third munshi from Rs. 30. Other munshis one month's pay and sometimes more at the time of Jamabandi.

Collector's inspection office from 100 to 300 at the time of sal-tamami.

Mukhtiarkar's Office ; All munshis take annually their one month's pay.

Supervising Tapedars : One month's pay of each tapadar.

In the Engineering Department, the percentage received by the overseers and sub-overseers is divided in certain proportions and paid to the clerks and munshis of higher offices. They are paid to avoid unnecessary difficulties being raised in inspecting records and in disposing of correspondences.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Particular favours in the case of revenue tapedars are with respect to remokal cultivation or shifting and not repairing of boundary marks and such other small harrasments. As regards irrigation, police and forest I have said under question 42.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. These exactions vary according to the area cultivated in each tapa in case of Revenue Department and the value of the contracts given in the P. W. D.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

49 Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

48, 49, 50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. By stopping rasai as in the present system of rasai the mukhtiarkars are compelled to overlook or sometimes encourage lapo. 2. By raising the pay of the tapedar and supervising tapedar. 3. By receiving Land Revenue by money order system but in that case a special rule should be made remitting money order fees.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher is labour without payment.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Chheras are always cultivators.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. (1) To repair roads in touring season specially when officers drive or motor. (2) To level the ground for pitching tents. (3) To pitch and un-pitch tents. (4) Loading and un-loading touring kit of the officers and their establishment. (5) To watch camps. (6) To render menial service to butlers, peons and munshis. (7) To attend officers on shooting excursions. (8) Bund making or work at the breaches of the canals.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No such condition to perform labour for Government officers is stipulated for.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. They get nothing from officers. The zamindars only feed them.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. About 100 at Commissioner's camp; about 50 Collector's camp; and 20 to 25 Assistant Collector's camp, and 10 mukhtiarkar's camp.

58. Commissioner's Camps: For bringing water 10, and stocks and wood 10, annd about 50 for preparing ground and pitching and striking the camp and 10 to help the butlers, peons and private servants of munshis and clerks. 20 watch the camp and 10 to look after and feed cattle sent by zamindars for milking.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

Collector's Camp: Half of the Commissioner's.

For Assistant Collector and mukhtiarkar the work is not distributed to them as in Commissioner and Collector's camp.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. The same answer as in question 56.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. About 100 in the case of high officer but it depends upon the number of officers shooting and the time available for it.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. Do not come willingly. Only mirbahars at the lakes get something from officers.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. Any large number depends upon the number of roads and the condition in which the roads are, and the status of the officer touring.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Such repairs are made for the convenience of the officers. They become useful to the public as well but that is no reason for using chher.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. Same reply as in question Nos. 56, 59 and 61.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. Depends upon the nature of the breach.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. Food from zamindars and in the case of large breaches Government officers supply food.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. The cultivation is delayed and suffers also to some extent if the chheras are required at the working seasons, specially transplantation time. The chheras suffer because they work gratis and zamindars the cost of their feeding.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

68, 69. Much cannot be procured in the neighbourhood of zamindars except in the months of December and January.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. The present system ought to be abolished. They may be engaged on payment of their full wages.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JAN MUHAMMAD JUNEJO.

1. Name.	1. Jan Muhammad Junejo.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindar, and barrister.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. About Rs. 3,000 per year.
4. Residence.	4. Dhamra.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. Nil.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. Rasai means free supplies to touring officers and their staff.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. 10 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Dhamra, Larkana.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The Commsinssioner in Sind, Collector, Asstt. Collector, D. S. P., A. S. P., mukhtiarkar, police sub inspector and inspector when they come on investigation of some offence.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. Fowls, eggs, milk, fodder, fuel, butter, vegetables, mutton.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11, 12. We purchase it from banias, haris, and villagers, and give from our own house if available.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?	13. We buy it at the market price.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Yes, these things have market values in small villages also.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. We don't get firewood from jungles, as there is no jungle near us. We buy it from large towns and sometimes from the villages when available, and pay the market price. It does not cost us anything, as our haris bring them to camp.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. About Rs. 5 but if they require sheep, then more.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18, 20. Collector Rs. 50 to 75. Asstt. Collector Rs. 20 to 30, D. S. P. Rs. 30 to 40, A. S. P. Rs. 20 to 30. Mukhtiarkar Rs. 10 to 15. Police sub-inspector and inspector Rs. 20 to 30.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. Yes.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?	21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. Already replied in No. 18

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. No.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. Upon ourselves and our haris.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Y--

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. Does not cost anything.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Sometimes.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. Does not cost anything, if we have our own, otherwise we make poor persons suffer and pay them nothing.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. Mukhtiarkar from Rs. 10 to 15. Have no experience of P. W. D. officers. About police inspectors I have already said (Vide No. 18.) Other subordinate officials, such as supervising tapedar, tapedar, darogahs cost very little.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. About three to four hundred rupees.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' your self or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Through tapedars and ourselves.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. Receive no payment.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. Would prefer the appointment of contractors independent of tapedars and zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. Yes.

36 What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Goverment ?

36. (a) Rasai entails much labour. It comes in the way of cultivation, which suffers heavily. Hence zamindars, haris, and poor villagers suffer terribly. (b) The touring officials and their staff are already paid by the Government, there is no reason why they should rosort to this unlawful practice and have another pay from zamindars. (c) Zamindars lose self-respect, feel they are born slaves, and have got to pay and please everybody. (d) It is a pecuniary loss to zamindars most of whom can not afford it. (e) It causes ill feeling among people, who are being troubled very much. They curse zamindars, who compel them to work free, disrespect them and abuse them if they don't do so. They also curse the Government for having appointed such cruel class of people.

Recommendations; The Government must put a stop to this evil by issuin strict orders to the officials, not to have rasai at all, and curtail the touring season, and take less establishment.

By appointing independent contractors who should provide the touring officials all the necessary supplies.

Rasai is generally done for the sake of receiving certain favours, such as, chair and licence. If some way is found to do it otherwise, the rasai might stop.

37. **Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?**

37. It is a common practice, and zamindars do so but I have not done this since last 3 years.

38. **Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?**

38. The practice of rasai should certainly be prohibited by Government.

Lapo.

39. **What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?**

39. Lapo:—Illegal exactions done mostly by the tapedars.

40. **How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest department.**

40. There are two forms of lapo. One is called lapo proper exacted by tapedars only. The other is called saliano exacted by daroghas, peons, supervising tapedars, sub-inspectors, inspectors, muqaddams, beldars and various munshies.

41. **How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?**

41. By tapedars it is levied per acre, and by others in lump sum.

42. **By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?**

42. By tapedars with a view to do rasai, and also to fill their own pockets. By others to fill in their own pockets only.

43. **Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?**

43. Sometimes we pay lapo and also make rasai. For instance, if a big zamindar makes rasai, he does not pay lapo, yet other abadgars who are smaller zamindars, pay lapo to the tapedar all the same.

44. **Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?**

44. Besides lapo we pay something to the peon and private servants, but we do not call these payments presents.

45. **What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?**

45. A rupee or two we pay to the peons, just to tip them as they beg for it, and so we don't mind it.

46. **Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?**

46. We fear if we don't please them by giving them lapo, they might create mischief and make us suffer one way or the other, as we know they can play mischief a good deal. The officials also seem to be entirely in their hands.

47. **What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?**

47. Tapedars and other petty officials.

48. **What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?**

48. Already replied in 31.

49. **Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?**

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars ?

50. Yes, somewhat.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?

51. (a) It could be stopped by modifications of the Revenue, Police, and P.W.D. systems. (b) By the strict orders of the Government to the officials to stop it. (c) The officials can do a lot if they have a mind to do it.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?

52. Chher :—Forced and unpaid labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras' ?

53. Haris and small khatedars.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

54. Pitching and striking the tents, loading and unloading goods, building stables, preparing roads, fetching water, firewood, cots, and other necessary work.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

55. Yes. It is an implied condition with haris that they should not refuse to do so, but of course the zamindars must not inconvenience them, when they are too busy with their cultivation work.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government ?

56. Nothing in cash, but they are fed by zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?

57. Mukhtiarkar 10 to 12, Asstt. Collector 20 to 25.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. Collector 50 to 75.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?

59. No.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?

60. No experience.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. Do.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?

62. According to the condition of a road.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?

63. Yes, but loss to zamindars.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards ?

64. Nothin

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. According to the breaches. If they are big, then 100 or even more chheras are required. If small breaches, 50 or so are enough.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?

66. Nothing.

67. **Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?**

67. At the time of cultivation, it does to haris and zamindars. The cultivation and suffers also, if the chheras are requ working seasons specially transplantation

68. **How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?**

68. From 6 annas to 10 annas.

69. **Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?**

69. Yes.

70. **Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?**

70. Chher, if obtained, must be paid it should certainly be abolished.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SHAMSUDDIN BAHADURKHAN.

Preliminary.

1. **Name.** — 1. Shamsuddin Bahadurkhan Abro.

2. **Occupation.** — 2. Zamindar and editor.

4. **Residence.** — 4. Mehar, district Larkana.

5. **Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.** — 5. Taluka Local Board member and Honorary Magistrate, Taluka Mehar.

Rasai.

6. **What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?** — 6. Rasai from 'Rasanidan' means to supply provisions, etc., to touring officers under their directions.

7. **How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?** — 7. As zamindar and editor I have 30 years' experience of rasai. I have been an editor now for 30 years. I have been in editorial charge of different newspapers. For many years I was editor of the Alhaq. Now I am editor of the Aftab Sind. Zamindars and correspondents from all parts of Sind furnished me with striking accounts of rasai which were sometimes published. As zamindar also I have considerable experience based upon personal observation and hearsay evidence.

8. **What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?** — 8. Following are the camping grounds in Mehar taluka :—

Radhan station, Thariri Mohbat, Mehar, Naogote, Shah Punjo, Baleshah, Aghamani, Kazi Jo Gote, Manjan, Faridabad, Shah Godrio, Manwani, Girkan, Kolachi and every tapa.

9. **What officers frequent those camping grounds?** — 9. These camping grounds are frequented by the mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector. Some of them are frequented by the Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Superintending Engineer, the Executive Engineer and the Sub-Divisional Officer; Mehar alone being frequented by the District Judge, the Judicial Commissioner, the Manager Incumbered Estates, the Civil Surgeon Larkana and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. The Commissioner, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and the Manager hardly come once in 4 or 5 years. They camp either at Mehar or Radhan.

10. **What supplies do those officers require for themselves?** — 10. Rasai is made not only for these officers but for their whole establishment including peons, camel men, etc. All kinds of supplies are provided for them: cots, jars, mutton, fowls, eggs, butter, milk, firewood, grass, liquor, fruit, vegetables, etc.

11. **Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?** — 11. Zamindars provide only the following things: kids, fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass, sometimes firewood and cots. The other things are obtained from a bania on account, the money being paid by the tapadar.

12. **Do you get them from your haris or from bania or from your own house or from other zamindars** — 12. The supplies which are provided by zamindars are partly obtained by them from small khatedars and partly bought by themselves.

13. **Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?** — 13. The price of a fowl varies from 4 to 8 annas; of an egg is one anna or ¾ of an anna; butter which formerly sold at 5 or 6 quarters of a seer per rupee now sells at 4 or 5 quarters of a seer per rupee; stalks which formerly sold at 10 or 12 bundles a rupee now sell at 3 or 4 bundles a rupee; rice straw which formerly sold at 2 or 3 annas a bundle now sells at 8 annas a bundle; the price of a kid is a rupee or two.

14. Have milk, stalks nd firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ?

14. The prices in big towns and villages or in their neighbourhood are now the same. Zamindars either obtain supplies from small khatedars or get them on payment. The quantity of supplies to be provided by each zamindar is fixed by the mukhtiarkar according to his ability and extent of cultivation.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?

15. No firewood is now obtainable in the jungles. It is obtained on payment. Only the zamindars of the river side send firewood from the forests. These supplies are sent to camps by zamindars in the carts of their haris who receive no payment.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ?

16. The daily cost in the case of European officers is not more than 1½ or 2 rupees and in the case of Indian officers not more than a rupee. It is recovered from them on bills.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?

17. The tapadars pay for the supplies to the official and private establishments of the touring officer. Zamindars make money presents to them only when they call on the officers or want them to do something for them at kacheris. They do not mind making such presents.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

18. The average daily cost is :—

In the case of the mukhtiarkar's camp	Rs.	8	0 0
In the case of the European Assistant Collector's camp ..	,,	15	0 0
In the case of the Native Deputy Collector's camp ..	,,	10	0 0
In the case of the Executive Engineer's camp	,,	15	0 0
In the case of the Sub-Divisional Officer's camp ..	,,	5	0 0

These figures are for camps outside headquarters and do not include milk. They do include liquor, provisions, tips, sugar candy, etc., etc.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

19, 20. The expenses of the officer's munshis are paid by the tapadars. If the mukhtiarkar or Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector encamps in a tapa, the tapadar of the tapa defrays the expenses either by himself or with the assistance of a zamindar. Civil suits are filed against tapadars who do not pay the khanda owing to their inability to pay or to their transfer, or complaints are made to their superior officers. Expenses for camps at taluka headquarters in the case of all officers are borne by the tapadars jointly.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Cots and jars are supplied by zamindars at camps outside headquarters and by the raj and panchayat in big towns. This causes inconvenience. Sometimes cots are missing, sometimes they are damaged by the clerks and peons and sometimes get mixed up. The materials for building stables for horses are supplied by zamindars and people of the village. Chheras to build them are also supplied by zamindars.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. At each camp the zamindar's expenses amount to Rs. 10—15. The other expenses are borne by the tapadars. If the expenditure for the taluka is very large on account of the large number of camps made in it, zamindars are asked to make cash contributions according to their ability.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. When tapadars pay for rasai, zamindars have nothing to do with it. Tapadars do not receive payment for rasai. They meet the expenses from lapo.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. Whatever zamindars spend on rasai they often obtain from petty khatedars. Some obtain from their haris an allowance in grain for such expenses at the batai. There may be some who share the expenses : generally the whole burden falls on the poor.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

25-26. At camps in villages munshis live in zamindari otaks or Government deras. Some live in their own rowtis.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

27-28. Occasionally zamindars supply for officers and their munshis horses, camels and carriages to take them to the next camp only. Generally officers and their munshis engage their own camels and horses on hire. They maintain baggage camels also. If at any time they have none of their own, carts are impressed for them for which they pay at the rate of 2 annas per mile, the Government rate. Some departments do not pay the hire. What is objectionable about this practice is that carts which are carrying passengers or load are impressed instead of empty carts or carts plying for hire.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
30. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

29-30. In the case of some departments all manner of rasai is made bythe subordinate officials of each department. This is specially true of the Public Works and Police Departments. In the case of the other departments rasai is generally made by the revenue subordinates. Zamindars only supply the things referred to above.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. Zamindars spend no money on rasai. Subordinate officials do. The latter recover it in the form of lapo from the zamindars and khatedars. The men of the Revenue Department spend 4 or 5 thousand rupees per year on rasai and annuities. Until lapo is recovered the pay of the tapadar is retained to meet the expenditure. Even the mukntiarkar's expenses apart from his kitchen expenses are paid therefrom.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

32-33. Neither zamindars nor contracting zamindars make rasai. Bills top are prepared by subordinate officials who receive the payments. Zamindars have no hand in the affair.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

34-35. It is hard for zamindars or contractors to make rasai. Zamindars cannot provide supplies for a whole establishment. They will neither present bills nor receive payment from fear of incurring the displeasure of an officer, occasioned by the complaints of his establishment. Similarly contractors are out of the question. They will charge high rates with a view to profit. The establishments who are not used to paying anything will not pay these rates. Nor can any one be found willing to take up rasai contracts. Already prices are very high. They will be higher still if supplies are obtained from contractors, who must charge for supervision and transport.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. The following are my objections and suggestions with respect to rasai:—

The promoters of rasai are the mukhtiarkars and zamindars. The former are anxious that their mistakes and irregularities should not be disclosed at the inspection of records and jamabandi. They therefore try to please officers and their establishments to save themselves from all possible harm. With a view to doing so they make elaborate rasai providing even liquors and presents and paying money annuities. They pay heavy tolls to men in superior offices. The head munshi of the superior office receives Rs. 150, the head clerk and the serishtedar Rs. 60 each and other munshis according to their grades from Rs. 15 to Rs. 40. Even the taluka office levies such tolls. The head munshi receives Rs. 11 from each tapadar. In Mehar taluka the head munshi receives an annuity of Rs. 187, there being 17 tapadars in that taluka. The sub-treasurer receives Rs. 6 from each tapadar, the second munshi Rs. 3, the supervising tapadar Rs. 40 or 45 and the divisional tapadar Rs. 11. For the private servants of officers there are also fixed

annuities varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. The annual payments to the taluka office, the supervising tapadar and the divisional tapadar are made by the tapadars individually but those made to the establishments of superior officers are met from a common fund which is in the charge of the headquarters tapadar and under the control of the mukhtiarkar or the nead munshi, who can spend any amount from it without rendering account to the tapadar. Annual payments are not confined to touring establishments. Even the men in the district offices at headquarters at Larkana levy annual payments. The Huzur Deputy Collector's office is an instance in point. When this office sends for records for inspection, the tapadar or munshi who takes the records pays a fee of Rs. 250. The mukhtiarkars draw upon the common fund, referred to above, to keep themselves in comfort. The tapadars dare not complain of the mukhtiarkars' drawings, however, large they may be. They however replenish the fund from the lapo received by themselves. Similarly large zamindars gladly make rasai, etc., to please officials with a view to promote their own interests. They are ever anxious to receive honours and to get favours and they succeed in obtaining both by adopting the ways indicated above. Whatever is spent by the mukhtiarkars or zamindars on rasai ultimately falls on small zamindars and haris. Neither the mukhtiarkars nor the zamindars suffer. The sufferers are poor men. The mukhtiarkars erroneously believe that if they did not make full rasai and did not pay annual fees, their irregularities would be brought to light and the munshis in superior offices would harass them so that their reputation and appointment would be at stake. Similarly zamindars partly to save what honours they enjoy and partly to obtain further honours and other favours pay lapo, etc., to officers. This proceeds from their moral weakness. Speaking from personal knowledge, I can say that I enjoy such honours as are conferred upon large zamindars and that I am treated by officers with great respect, although I never go to receive an officer, never make dalis, never contribute to rasai and never go to see a munshi. Thus it will be seen that the way to official favour is not through rasai. There are notable instances of large zamindars such as the Hon'ble Mr. Bhurgri and Hon'ble Sayad Allahandoshah, who although they condemn rasai and never make it, are treated with greater respect by officials than is shown to those who make rasai. If the other zamindars were as independent as the Hon'ble Mr. Bhurgri and the Hon'ble Sayad Allahandoshah and refused to pay lapo and other illegal gratifications, even though they suffered for it, rasai would abate a little. Things would also improve if the mukhtiarkars did their work well and did not care for their own interests and allowed their mistakes to be brought to notice As however the mukhtiarkars do not lose but gain, they encourage rasai, which is growing from more to more. The European officers have undeservedly lost their good name. Their personal expenses are moderate and they do make some payments. Why do they not then keep a strict eye upon their establishments and extirpate the evils of lapo, etc., which have led to so much disgrace? The officers lose their good name for the misdeeds of their munshis and others. Rasai is not a feature of the revenue department only; the other departments are worse than the revenue department in this respect. It is a pity however that they are not talked of. Their exactions will be described later. Here we give the following example: In this year, the Superintending Engineer encamped with his establishment at Tharri Mohbat for a few days from 2nd April 1918. Rasai was made for the establishment on a grand scale. He then left, leaving his establishment behind. After two, three days he sent for the establishment, i.e., munshis and peons. The rest of his men, i.e., camel drivers and khalasis are still there with some kit. They are there to-day the 26th April. It is not known when they will go. These camel drivers and khalasis are daily supplied with four seers of mutton, a jar full of milk and for their camels a toya of jowari. The daily cost of such supplies is Rs. 4 and at this rate the cost for the 25 days will be Rs. 100 for the camel drivers and khalasis alone. They will possibly also ask that they should be paid for their provisions. Add to this what was spent on the rasai of the other establishment and it will be seen that this camp must have cost Rs. 200 or Rs. 300. The loss in the first instance will fall upon the daroghas and mukadams, who will re-imburse themselves by making collections from zamindars and cattle owners over and above their annual lapo. It is therefore the duty of officers to suppress the evils, to keep an eye on their greedy establishments, to allow no subordinate official, tapadar or darogha to approach their camps, to instruct their establishments to get their supplies from the bazar, to check their bills and to cause payments to be made in their presence, as was done by Mr. Moysey and Mr. Monie. Butlers of officers are provided with rasai, daily allowances and annuities, because in the event of their not being so treated they complain to their masters of the bad quality of the provisions supplied, with a view to prejudicing them against the officials in charge of rasai. Similarly the peons postpone pitching tents and then complain that they did so because no chher was available with the result that the officer gets annoyed with the tapadar or the mukhtiarkar concerned. If however officers do not mind such complaints and even hold their own men responsible for the work in camp, rasai will be stopped to a

certain extent. The mukhtiarkars too should dare to give true versions of things to officers who are one and all lovers of truth. Probably officers connive at the pranks of their menial establishments because they feel that they will leave their service if rasai is forbidden to them and take service where they can have an extra income. If however every officer becomes strict in this matter, there will be an end to the menials forsaking their masters, for the simple reason that they will not gain anything by a change of masters. Of course it will be necessary to make some increase in their pay. Officers should also keep an eye on their munshis' work and should not worry their subordinates for mistakes committed by them. This will make their munshis powerless, with the result that they will not insist upon rasai or annuities being made to them. Another cause of rasai is lapo. If this is stopped (I stated in clause 59 how it should be stopped) rasai will decrease of itself. All this however relates to the revenue department. In other departments there is no way to stop rasai except by keeping a strict eye.

Rasai will also decrease if the touring periods of the touring establishments are curtailed. The object of touring, *viz.*, that officers should come in contact with the people and know their grievances is not fully served. Touring officers meet large zamindars and chair holders only, who inform them of their own grievances only. Aggrieved persons come as petitioners but as the mukhtiarkar of the taluka is also on the spot, they cannot get redress. They then resort to annoymous petitions which too are disregarded. If they make petitions in their own name, the underlings and large zamindars give them threats and suppress evidence. It is therefore desirable that officers should not ask mukhtiarkars to accompany them on tour or to sit by their side when they hear petitions. They should also meet zamindars other than large zamindars. Officers' tour seems necessary because of its indirect advantages such as the improvement of roads and the check it exercises upon the subordinate officials, but its period should be reduced. For the inspection of records and jamanbandi, a week or so at the most will suffice for each taluka. Calculating at this rate the period should not exceed 3 months. The camps should be confined to large towns in talukas. The camp establishment should be as small as possible. If an officer must go to a village, he should go alone, leaving his camp behind or if necessary take a tent and private servants with him. In large towns in talukas milk, mutton, firewood, jars and every other thing is obtainable at the bazar. Every man should therefore get his supplies from the bazar. Even cots can be obtained from the bazar.

37-38. Zamindars present dalis of fruit to officers at their camps. Each such dali costs Rs. 5 at the most. Some zamindars do not present such dalis. I have never presented a dali to any officer. If officers refuse dalis, zamindars feel it. They think that such refusal is a slur on them. Sometimes large zamindars present sheep or big dalis at Christmas. On other occasions they do not present sheep. Zamindars present dalis with great pleasure and insist upon officer accepting them. There is no objection to this practice. Dali is a token of respect or hospitality to an official. It is similar to the present of sugar-candy made by the panchayats, thinking that it is not proper to go to an officer empty-handed. Officers do not care for dalis. They give them away to their peons and cooks.

37. **Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?**

38. **Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?**

Lapo.

39. Lapo seems to be derived from 'Lobb' (greed) or 'Labb' (gain). Lapo is the annual quantity of grain which the zamindar gives to artisans or pirs or fakirs either by way of remuneration or charity. It also means a fee paid by zamindars to Hindus for making the batai. Similarly the annual payments in cash or kind made to officials are called lapo.

39. **What do you understand by the term Lapo?**

40. There are various forms of unauthorized lapo. It is levied not only in the revenue department but also in other departments notably in the Public Works Department, but the pity is that the revenue department alone has become notorious. It is levied partly for the purpose of rasai and partly as a bribe.

40. **How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?**

41. **How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?**

41, 42. It is levied in different departments in different forms.

(a) In the revenue department, the tapadar levies from small zamindars, from one anna to two annas

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

per jireb, from large zamindars from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per cent. as lapo, when receiving the first instalment of assessment. Where land has been leased and the lessee has to pay the assessment, lapo is also paid by him under the terms of the agreement. In other cases every occupant, small or large, pays lapo himself.

(b) In the Public Works Department, Sub-Divisional Officers levy lapo at 10 per cent. from the contractors; sub-overseers and daroghas levy from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 according to the circumstances of each case; daroghas levy from Rs. 3 to 5 on each private paka sluice, Rs. 2 on each water course sluice and Re. 1 on each khuhado. Mukadams take a heap of reaped ears of corn, or at the time of batai, grain. They also take milk and kids from the cattle owners according to their requirements, even when there are no camps. In case of camps they receive cash payments from zamindars and supplies from cattle owners.

(c) Forest Rangers take annuities or grain from the zamindars and cattle owners.

(d) In the Police Department the Sub-Inspector and the thanedar exact from zamindars on the pretext of making rasai, annual payments according to their means.

(e) In the Judicial Department, also members of superior office receive fixed annual payments. The serishtedar, nazir, execution munshi and bailiffs of every subordinate civil court each levy 8 annas per cent. on every plaint. This charge collectively amounts to 3 or 4 rupees. The burden falls on the defendant indirectly. The rasai for the superior officers of this department is made by the tapadars and that for the establishments, by the nazir and bailiffs.

(1.) Unauthorized lapo is levied not only for the purpose of rasai but also for particular favours in all departments. In the latter case it is a form of bribery. Because of it, revenue subordinates connive at unauthorized cultivation, defective boundary marks, encroachments and wastage of water. They would otherwise cause great loss to zamindars.

(2.) The Public Works Department officials connive at contractors' faults, make them concessions in measurements, and when the waters break the dam and flow into a canal, allow them credit for clearance work, which was not done at all, according to the estimates. They can also oblige zamindars by allowing more water into their canal when they need it, they being in charge of the regulators. They can also disoblige zamindars and others by giving them an excessive supply of water, to the injury of their crops and houses. Year before last such a thing happened on the Masahir canal. Zamindars went and forcibly lowered the needles at the sluice. They were prosecuted, incurred heavy expenses and were acquitted. The case was reported in the papers, at which the engineers got angry. It is a pity however that large zamindars, who always complain, take the side of the officials when an inquiry is made. The tyranny of the Public Works Department is even greater than that of the Revenue Department but it is not much talked of.

(3.) Officials of the Forests Department allow cattle owners to graze their cattle and to cut down firewood in the forests, without payment.

(4.) Officials of the Civil Court admit plaints quickly and the bailiffs exert themselves to serve summonses. Sometimes they even make false endorsements on oath on summonses.

(5.) The Police do not resort to proceedings under section 110 nor do they complain of want of assistance on the part of the zamindars. The honour of zamindars is now-a-days at the mercy of the Police. They therefore care more for the police than for the revenue department.

49. There were some improvements in the matter of rasai in 1914 owing to the circular of that year. It has since increased owing to the reasons stated above, as the mukhtiarkars themselves encourage it, but the old compulsion has disappeared. As regards officers, their ways are not uniform. Their personal expenses are reasonable and they pay their bills. If mukhtiarkars prepare short bills it is their mistake. It is not true as officers suppose that grass, firewood and milk have no market values. These three things have market values. If zamindars provide milk, they get it from cattle-owners against their will, who will curse them. Both tapadars and zamindars obtain milk on payment also. The

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

system of giving contracts to zamindars was positively unprofitable for them. They therefore nominally worked it for one year under compulsion, rasai being as usual made by the tapadars from the rasai fund.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Suggestions for prevention of lapo: The most important suggestion is that assessments should be remitted by money order. Tapadars should have nothing to do with it; they should simply send to zamindars their bills of assessments in time. Money order fees should be reduced. This will necessitate the employment of additional clerks in post offices. It is absurd to expect that lapo will cease, if mukhtiarkars become more vigilant, for even they are interested in its continuance. The demands of the mukhtiarkar and the head munshi upon the tapadars are so frequent and so great that the latter are disgusted with the taking of lapo. If lapo ceases, these demands will also cease. But the pay of the tapadars must be increased so as to enable them to live decently and comfortably and not to be dependent upon officers or zamindars. If the system of payments by money order is introduced, the question will arise as to how arrears should be recovered. My suggestion is that mukhtiarkars should proceed against zamindars who are in arrears, as labourers are proceeded against under Act No. XIII:—Bailable warrants should be issued against them and if the money is not paid or bail furnished within the time allowed, the defaulter must be sent to jail. In this way arrears can be very easily recovered and revenue officials will not, as is the case now, have to knock about or to distrain or sell movable properties. This procedure is more effective and more speedy than the procedure of distraint and sale. When lapo has thus been prevented, the fear is that tapadars will harass zamindars in connection with their boundary marks, wastage of water and encroachments. To prevent this, it is necessary that the provisions of the Land Revenue Code should be relaxed and the rule regarding wastage of water cancelled. In a rice district, waste of water is necessary and inevitable. As regards encroachments, superior officers should look into such cases personally. In rice fields boundary marks should be of stone instead of earthen mounds. As it is, subordinate officials resort to various illegal practices in connection with them. If boundary marks of a khatedar are not in a good condition, notices are issued for the boundary marks in the whole of the group, whether repaired or unrepaired. These notices do not reach the khatedars concerned, and then the contractor is brought in to repair the boundary marks in the whole group on contract. The contractor does the work in a perfunctory manner and from the cost obtained from the khatedars, gives perquisites to officers who do not supervise his work. In this way, even those zamindars of the group whose boundary marks are already repaired, are required to pay for the repairs executed by the contractor. If they complain, they are not minded by the mukhtiarkar. In future when the mukhtiarkar receives a list of boundary marks which are out of repair, he should issue a summons to each khatedar and ask him if the report is true. In case a zamindar's boundary marks are out of repair, the mukhtiarkar should give him time in which to repair them. If the boundary marks are not repaired within the time allowed, he should entrust the work to a contractor. Indeed such powers should be exercised by the Assistant or Deputy Collectors, with a view to save zamindars from harasment. For a year or two there would be some trouble from subordinate officials. When they see that the new procedure has come to stay, the trouble will cease. On the prevention of lapo, annual payments and rasai will disappear of them selves. At the some time, superior officers should see that their munshis do not worry their subordinates in correspondence.

All this relates to the revenue department. There is no remedy for other departments especially the Public Works Department. It appears rather difficult to prevent undue exactions in that department, for the water supply on which depends the very existence of the zamindars, is in its charge. Cattle owners whose villages are in the neighbourhood of canals or whose cattle are watered at canals are always in the grip of that department. Approaches to canals are now closed and neither men nor cattle are allowed to pass along canals. Will not this lead to official oppression? It is suggested that all matters of water supply should be disposed of in consultation with revenue officers. Both the Police and the Public Works Departments can prove veritable curses to the people, when they exceed certain limits. Officers alone can keep them in check. There is no other remedy. The great pity is that the sacred Educational Department which until now was free from the evil of rasai, has succumbed to it. Poor masters, who have nothing but their pay to depend upon, make rasai for the establishments both official and private of the Deputy Educational Inspector and his assistants and the Educational Inspector from their legitimate pay, which is very small and an inadequate remuneration for their brain work. Even in matters of promotion and transfer, they make customary payments to the munshis of their superior officers.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means men driven like cattle with a view to their employment without remuneration.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. The chheras are zamindars' haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. They are provided to close breaches, to pitch and strike camps, to load and unload kit, to repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to fetch water and to do other work at officers' camps

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. When the chheras *i.e.* haris are given lands by zamindars to cultivate, they are required to undertake in writing on the takavi deeds or orally, to work as chheras when required to do so, They therefore come without any excuse in response. to zamindars' calls.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. When they are employed on closing breaches they get food only from the Public Works Department. When employed on other work, they are fed by the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. From 20 to 30 chheras are required at each officer's camp for all the days of the camp.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. From 50 to 100 are obtained to repair the roads and to prepare the camping ground or each zamindar is assigned some work, which he finishes within the appointed time, employing as many chheras as necessary.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing from Government or the Local Boards. The work lasts for 2 or 3 days.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. Chher for the purpose of shikar is a rare occurrence. Officers do not shoot except at Christmas, the arrangements being made by a few large zamindars who shoot themselves.

61. Do they come willing or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. The chheras are bound to come at the call of zamindars, whether they are willing or not. Some officers give money presents or food to the chheras. In any case zamindars feed them.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

62, 63. Such repairs are also of benefit to the public. All the roads are put into repair for the sake of the camps of officers.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. Chher means employment without remuneration. How can the chheras then get anything except food? Of course the zamindars get honours and afrinamas at darbars, for such help.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. Large zamindars supply as many as a hundred chheras at the time of floods and breaches.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get food from Government.

67 and 68. The employment of chheras in the cultivation season interferes with their cultivation, Casual paid labour is also available, but the chneras of the zamindars will be glad if they are given a money wage without food. The officials of the Public Works Department often cheat in accounts of the expenditure on the closing of breaches. The occurrence of a breach means ruin for the zamindars and a good time for the officials. A committee should be appointed to look after the expenditure incurred on closing breaches and in conjunction with the officials to settle the accounts of provisions and to make purchases. This is good for Government. The revenue officials take bribes or presents but the officials of the Public Works Department sometimes even appropriate Government moneys without being called to account. There is no remedy for this state of things. The saving caused by the curtailment of the touring period and the camp establishment, should be utilized for the purpose of employing khalasis, who should pitch and strike tents at camps themselves or with the help of the local board beldars.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF R. S. MULCHAND SAKHAWATRAI.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Rao Sahib Mulchand Sakhawatrai.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindari
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. Zamindar, Rs. 35 income tax jointly with brothers; Government land revenue Rs. 6,000.
4. Residence.	4. Tayab, taluka Ratodero.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. Vice President Ratodero Municipality, District Local Board member and Chairman, Honorary Magistrates' Bench B, Ratodero.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. I consider it as a nuisance to the public.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. About 30 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Ratodero town and Tayab-jo-gote.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Manager, the Deputy Collector, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and the Educational Inspector visit Ratodero and the Deputy Collector Tayab only.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. Fowls, eggs, butter, milk, firewood, grass and vegetables.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. I have fowls, eggs, milk, butter, vegetables and grass of my own. I buy firewood only.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. I bring them from my own house.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?	13. I pay for firewood only at seven annas per maund.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Certainly they have.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. I purchase firewood. It costs me nothing to bring it to camp.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. Re. 1.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. I have to provide supplies at Tayab only.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. About Rs. 8.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. I have to provide supplies at Tayab only.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. About Rs. 5.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. At Tayab about Rs. 2.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. Payment is made by officers on bills presented by me but at Tayab no payments are received for supplies to others.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The loss falls on me and not on the haris.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. I provide quarters at Tayab only.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you recdeive payment ?

26. It costs me nothing as I have houses of my own. No charge is made.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. No.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. No.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. No.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. No.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. About Rs. 150.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. I do it myself under the orders of the mukhtiarkar.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. I present bills to officers who pay them. When I come out of the presence of the officer, the money is taken back by the butler.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. It will be a good thing if contractors are apt pointed.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. They can be found for sub-divisions and not for districts.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. I particularly object to zamindars being called upon to make rasai as they find it hard to accept money from official establishments. Government should make their own arrangements through a contractor specially appointed for the purpose. Rates should be fixed and everybody should pay for his supplies at the rates so fixed.

37. Do you present 'Dalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Such dalis are commonly given. Fruit costs Rs. 3 or 4 and sheep Rs. 7 or 8. As regards vegetables they are brought from my own garden.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. No.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. Lapo is regarded as Government land revenue

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments.

40. Unauthorized lapo is levied in 5 or 6 ways. It is levied in the Revenue and Public Works Departments. In the Police Department it is levied in the form of contributions from zamindars towards the expenses of rasai at officers' camps.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied in the Revenue Department at fixed rates per assessment.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is taken by the tapadars on the plea that they utilise it on the rasai of officers. Tapadars, daroghas and muccadums take it.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai. They say that it is spent on rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. It is true that they say that they levy it for the purpose of making money presents to private and official establishments of touring officials. I too pay tips to peons and butlers when I call on officers.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. Generally Rs. 2 to peons and from Rs. 2 to 25 to the butler and other private servants. If I do not pay the tips, they do not give me a chair to sit on.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Yes, if I do not pay the lapo to tapadars, I am made to suffer pecuniarily on account of alleged encroachments and my boundary marks and ridges are entered as out of repair with the result that Government repairs them and recovers the charge from me. If I do not pay lapo to the police they carry false tales to the District Superintendent of Police and prejudice him against me.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. The annual amount exacted by the tapadar is Rs. 5 or 6 and by the police jamadar Rs. 60.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. About Rs. 200 on my own account.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. It has not been reduced. The amount is same as before.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiakars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. I do not think lapo could ever be stopped. Grain must go to the grinding stone, poor zamindars therefore are helpless.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher is like punitive police

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?	53. Haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?	54. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to close breaches, to repair roads, etc., etc.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?	55. Yes, they hold their lands on express condition to perform such labour.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?	56. No.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?	57. 25 chheras are required for pitching tents at Collector's camps. 5 are required for subsequent days For other officers a smaller number is required for similar services.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?	58. 10 chheras are required daily: 30 to 50 are required for preparing the camping ground and 25 for pitching tents.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?	59. They get food from zamindars but nothing from Government.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?	60. I do not help in shikar.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?	61. Ditto.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?	62. Yes. At the time of officers' camps roads are repaired by zamindars. A zamindar of standing has to supply 30 to 50 men.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?	63. The public also benefit from it.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?	64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?	65. Cannot give the number.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?	66. No.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?	67. It does interfere with cultivation as it causes delay in harvesting to the loss of zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?	68. Cannot give the number.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?	69. Certainly, he can procure.
70 Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Goverment	70. Chher may certainly be obtained but chheras should receive the wages from Government.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ABDULLAH RAIS KHAN TUNIO.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Abdullah son of Rais Matal Khan Tunio, resident of village Ber, taluka Kambar.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar and Local Board Member (elected).

3. Extent of business or zamindari Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. — 3. Zamindari, Hissadari, about 900 acres, in all assessment Rs. 2,400.

4. Residence. — 4. Kambar.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Local Board Member.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai means provisions supplied at officer's camps and cash payments made to subordinates and their private servants. My village is 4½ miles from Kambar where too I supply firewood, grass, eggs, chickens, milk, butter, at officers' camps.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 30 years.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. In Ber and Kambar.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. There is a shikargah near my village where all officers except those of the Forest Department encamp. The Governor of Bombay has encamped there twice. The expenses exceeded Rs. 500 on each occasion. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the supervising tapadar, the tapadar, the District Superintendent of Police, the Inspector of Police, the Sub-Inspector, the Executive Engineer, the Sub-Divisional Officer and others.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Fowls, eggs, sheep, kids, milk, butter, etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. I cut down my own babul-trees for the fire wood required. I pay for the cutting. I buy and supply chabar grass. As regards rice straw I draw upon my own stock. Rice, ghee, sugar, molasses for camels, jowari, paddy, gram, etc., for horses are bought at a bania's shop and supplied.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars — 12. Fowls, eggs, sheep and kids are bought and supplied.

13. Do you pay for them and if so at what average rates? — 13. I pay for the above articles.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. All things including milk, grass, firewood have market values.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. A cart load of firewood costs between Rs. 2 and 3.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. We are asked to give supplies worth Rs. 8 or 9 for the officer

These are :—

4 fowls, 6 to 10 annas each. 20 eggs. one anna each. Butter 2 seers, Re. 1 per seer. Sheep or kids, Rs. 12 each in the case of the former and Rs. 3 each in the case of the latter.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ?

17. Yes. Everything is supplied by us.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

18. The average daily cost is :—

	Rs.		Rs.
Mukhtiarkar	10—20	District Superintendent of Police	30—40
Assistant or Deputy Collector	20—30	Deputy Inspector-General of Police	15—20
Collector	40—50	Sub-Overseer	10—15
Commissioner	50—100	Overseer	15—25
Sub-Inspector	5—10	Executive Engineer	30—50
Inspector	10—15	Superintending Engineer ..	40—60

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. Answers under 16 and 18 include everything

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. The daily cost of each officer's camp is shown above.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. No.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. I bear the loss. The more respectable zamindars bear it.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. We give our own otaks which costs us nothing

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. I provide bullock carts for the carriage of kit. If a munshi has no conveyance of his own I provide him with a horse or buggy for which no payment is made.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. It costs us nothing if we provide our own animals. If they are obtained on hire, the hire is paid by us.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Yes. Theirs is the first claim, as we have many dealings with them ; and for the sake of our respect, it is necessary to make rasai for them.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. We receive no payment

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. I spend Rs. 800 or more every year.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. I do rasai myself. The supplies to tapadars, and subordinate police officers and darogas are also paid for by me.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. They get receipts from us but make no payment.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. If we were appointed contractors we would be ashamed to ask for money and if we did ask we would lose our respect.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes. Hindu contractors can be found.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. The first consideration is since officers get their pay from Government, why should zamindars bear their expenses. Rasai means loss both to zamindars and their haris. My opinion is that tours should be curtailed, and confined in the case of high officials to taluka head quarters and to big villages in the case of small officials. Touring officers should get their supplies from the bazar through their servants on payment. They should not buy their supplies through zamindars, tapadars, policemen or darogas, as the latter will fleece zamindars.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Yes, I do. I do so of my own accord. If officers refuse our dhalis we feel. The dhalis cost us Rs. 30 to 40.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. No.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo is from the same stock as rasai. It was formerly levied at the rate of one anna, but is now levied at the rate of two or three annas. It is paid in cash.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. Unauthorized lapo is that which is described above and is levied by touring subordinates of all departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied at a certain rate per jireb or acre.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Yes. Tapadars, abdars, darogas, sub-inspectors, and thanadars levy it.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. We do both.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Do.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. At each camp money presents are made to munshis of all departments; my total expenditure on these presents amount to Rs. 100 a year or even more.

46. Unauthorized lapo is paid by us under compulsion to prevent tapadars making false reports against us for one thing or another, and "sitting on" our correspondence relating to matters connected with our lands. P.W.D.subordinates throw obstacles in the way of our getting water supply, impound our cattle if these pass on to canal banks and harass our haris in case they are not paid their lapo. Policemen have large powers. If we refuse to pay them lapo, we lose our respect. They will get a rogue to make a false complaint against us and will investigate the case themselves and disrespect us or they will proceed against us under the badmashi provisions on false evidence or they will detain our haris for 4 or 5 days for the purpose of comparing foot prints and beat them.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Subordinate officers of all departments take such presents.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I have replied to this above.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. Not at all.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. The powers of subordinate officials should be curtailed in the case of departments in which lapo is levied.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means zamindar's haris employed during touring seasons on repairing roads without payment, sometimes for months together along with their bullocks, carts and donkeys. Zamindars have to feed them.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Chheras are Muhammadan haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. They repair roads, prepare camping grounds pitch tents, load and unload kit and keep watch for officers' camps.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. When we advance takavi to haris we make this condition that they will work as cheras at officers' camps. They work as chheras in pursuance of that condition. In return for their service, we show them consideration at the time of batai.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. No answer.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. Chheras are required as under:—

Mukhtiarkar's Camp	10
Dy. Collector's Camp	20
Collector's Camp	50
Commissioner's Camp	100

These however are supplied for the purpose of pitching and striking camps and loading and un-loading kit. On other days 10 or 15 men are supplied for bringing water, firewood, and grass and for keeping watch.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. This has been answered above.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. Do.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. For shooting in dhandhs, chheras are required. These get some money as bakhshish from officers.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come willingly in response to the zamindar's call. The zamindar gives them food only.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. There are beldars and malhis for roads, but much of their time is spent in doing private work of the mukhtiarkar, and the head munshi. It is therefore that the zamindar's chheras are employed at officers' camps. The chheras get nothing except food which the zamindar provdies.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Only such roads are repaired as lead to officer's camps and not others.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. Zamindars provide food only and nothing else

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in csae of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number of chheras depends upon the amount of work involved.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get nothing. The zamindar feeds them.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. During cultivation season much loss is caused.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Labourers could be obtained on 6 to 7 annas a day in my neighbourhood.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes. If labourers are paid a full wage.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. If chher is employed it should be adequately paid.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF WADERO KADIR BAKSH JAN MUHAMMAD.

Preliminary.

1. **Name.** — 1. Wadero Kadir Baksh son of Wadero Jan Muhammad Narejo, zamindar and pattadar.

2. **Occupation.** — 2. Zamindari.

3. **Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.** — 3. 600 acres; Rs. 2,500 assessment.

4. **Residence.** — 4. Thariri Mohbat.

5. **Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.** — 5. Taluka Local Board member

Rasai.

6. **What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?** — Rasai means the supply of provisions etc. and cash to officers and their establishments at camps. Now it means injustice.

7. **How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?** — 7. 20 years'.

8. **What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?** — 8. (1) Thariri Mobat, (2) Radhan Station, (3) bungalow at the mouth of Pritchard canal, (4) Mehar.

9. **What officers frequent those camping grounds?** — 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the supervising tapadar and officers of all other departments.

10. **What supplies do those officers require for themselves?** — 10. For the Collector—2 fowls, a dozen eggs sometimes 2 dozen, butter one seer, grass eight annas worth, fuel one rupee worth, milk four seers;

the Deputy Collector—If European same as for Collector, if Indian half of that for the Collector;

Mukhtiarkar—Whatever supplies are given by the shopkeeper to the Mukhtiarkar are paid for by us. The mukhtiarkar gets the receipt.

Kids are given free at camps in small villages.

11. **Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?** — 11. We supply provisions daily which we get from banias. Grass and fuel are brought to camp by chheras. Fowls, eggs, kids, butter, etc. are obtained on payment and supplied by us.

12. **Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars.** — 12. This has been answered above.

13. **Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates?** — 13. We pay at the following rates:—fowls 8 annas each, eggs 12 annas a dozen, butter rupee one per seer, milk 2 annas a seer, fuel 6 annas a maund, grass Rs. 4 a cart load containing 20 bundles, kid Rs. 2 each.

14. **Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?** — 14. Yes, according to the above scale.

15. **Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?** — 15. We purchase fuel from the depot and the cartage up to camp is one anna per maund. We get grass from haris on payment. Haris do the work unwillingly. They are made to do it from fear of the officers.

16. For the Collector and Assistant Collector Rs. 5 daily; the Indian Deputy Collector Rs. 3 daily; the mukhtiarkar Rs. 3 daily; Supervising tapadars and tapadars take provisions at the time of field inspection.

16. What is the average daily cost of the suppiles required by the officers themselves ?

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?

17. We have to provide provisions to officers and their establishments in small villages.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

18. The expenses of the Collector's establishment amount to Rs. 30 per day.

9. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. I have answered this under No. 18.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes, free of payment

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. Collector's establishment Rs. 35, Deputy Collector's establishment Rs. 25 and Mukhtiarkar's establishment Rs. 15.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. Absolutely nothing. The nominal payments made by officers on the bills presented to them are taken back by the butler and the establishments make no payments at all.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The loss falls on us.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Yes, free.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. No.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. It costs me from Rs. 5 to 10 but I receive no payment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes, for all.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. It costs us about Rs 30 but we receive no payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. About Rs. 500.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. We have to make the rasai as the burden of rasai is still on zamindars and their haris. If it is not made, both zamindars and their haris are put to heavy losses and zamindars are disrespected.

33. How do you receive paymcnt? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made thtough contracting zamindars ?

33. This has been answered under No. 23.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. It would be better if a Hindu contractor appointed.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. Yes, it would be possible.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. The powers of officers who receive rasai should be curtailed. The period of tour should be reduced substantially and the camp establishment should be reduced. Revenue officers should not have magisterial powers. Education should be made free and compulsory in villages.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?

37. Yes, a dhali of fruit costs Rs. 5, that of vegetables Rs. 2 and that of a sheep Rs. 10.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. I think it should be stopped.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. It means injustice and annoyance.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

40. Tapadars levy one or two annas per jireb as lapo. Other departments levy in fixed lump sums. The Police Department specially levy it with force.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

41. I have answered this under No. 40.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?

42. Tapadars levy it for doing rasai and subordinates of other departments levy it in lump sums.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?

43. I do rasai as well as give lapo.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?

44. Officers' private servants and peons are given money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?

45. These presents vary from Rs. 5 to 10. Zamindars suffer if they do not make such presents.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

46. No favours are shown. They levy it by force.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?

47. Subordinates of all departments levy it. The amount varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?

48. About Rs. 500.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?

49. It has not been reduced. On the contrary it has increased since then.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars ?

50. No, on the contrary it has increased. The system is not in vogue here.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?

51. Special legislation should be made penalizing the taking of lapo and rasai.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?

52. It means forced labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras' ?

53. They are haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

54. They do all kinds of work: prepare camping grounds, pitch tents, erect kacha huts for horses, keep watch, fetch water and do miscellaneous work.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

55. Yes, some concession has to be made to them as they are called upon to perform such labour from time to time.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from the officers of Government ?

56. Nothing at all. On the contrary they are ill treated and oppressed.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?

57. At least 50 at the Collector's camp, 100 at the Commissioner's camp, 30 at the Deputy Collector's camp and 5 at the Mukhtiarkar's camp. For officers of other departments chheras are supplied according to their respective requirements.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. About 50.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?

59. They do not get anything.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?

60. About 25 to 30 chheras.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. They come under pressure. They do not get anything from officers but zamindars give them food.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?

62. When an officer like the Commissioner, the Collector or the Assistant Collector is coming then chheras are required at the rate of 10 per mile of the road to be repaired.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?

63. They are generally of benefit to the officers.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ?

64. They do not get anything.

65 How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. From 500 to 1,000 chheras are required.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They do not get anything. They only get food either from the zamindars or from the officers.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes, it does, causing great loss to zamindars.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available to a large extent.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes, it ought to be abolished.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HOTCHAND THAKURSING.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Hotchand Thakursing.
2. Occupation.	2. Pleader and Lessee.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. Assessment 3,000 rupees.
4. Residence.	4. Kambar.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. Nil.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. It has come to mean procuring supplies for the touring officers without or on getting less payments for the same.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. I have about ten years' experience of rasai though not of making it.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. No answer.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. Representatives of almost all the departments in Sind visit the shikarghas of Kambar during the touring season. Officers from other parts of India pay occasional visits to the dhands of Kambar.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. All sorts of supplies are taken by officers and their establishments.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. Grain and rice are supplied by the village banias. Other articles mentioned come from the hari.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars.	12. The requirements are met by village establishment through the assistance of zamindars and they are collected and brought to the camp by the village establishment.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates?	13. The articles had from the bania are generally paid out of the rasai fund.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Milk, stalks and firewood are not sold beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns. Persons living in such places bring milk and firewood for sale in large villages and towns and get their prices. It could therefore very conveniently be said that everything has its price. If milk and firewood are not sold there yet they cannot be had for nothing.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. Firewood is procured from jungles or from trees on the banks of zamindari karias. It at any rate costs labour.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. I have no accurate idea of it.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. They are supplied.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. No answer.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. They are supplied.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. No answer.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. These articles are supplied. Cots are taken from the haris and water jars from the village potter.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. They cost nothing when the camp is in the village of a zamindar. But if the camp is in the headquarters jars are purchased from the bazar. The cots are procured from the people there. During the Commissioner's camp no less than 100 cots are required.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. As a practice nothing is paid for these things by servants and menials. As regards clerks and munshis some of them pay only a portion of their real expenses. Some officers do not pay at all, some pay only a part of the prices of the things received and a few pay in full the bill presented for payment.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24 The excess is paid from the rasai fund, except in cases where the zamindars show willingness to pay. Zamindars again recover from their haris at batai time.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Sometimes quarters are provided for the Collector's establishment.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. It costs nothing. Camels, carts, sometimes carriages are supplied by zamindars.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. As a rule camels and carts do not cost the zamindar anything. But he generally has to pay for the carriages supplied by him at the rate of three rupees a day Several carriages are retained by the tapedar of the head quarter per day there. Generally no payment is received. The buggy walas are paid from rasai fund.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28 Already answered.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29 The zamindars have to make rasai of officials mentioned:

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30 Here too payment is rarely made.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. No answer.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32, Rasai is made by the tapedars out of the rasai fund and partly out of contributions by zamindars. There are no contracting zamindars in the Kambar taluka.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. Payments are never made through a contracting zamindar. The rest has been already replied to.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars. It will be only insulting them if they are asked to do this office. The introduction of such a system will not improve the state of affairs. It is desirable to appoint contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars to supply all the necessaries of life to touring officers.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. Yes. Such persons are available in every taluka village.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Rasai is another word for bribery. The system of rasai is oppressive. The whole burden falls on the poor cultivator who is already over-burdened in many ways. Sind is an agricultural province. It is but right and proper that the agricultural community which supplies the wants of the province should be taken very good care of. Not that it should be allowed to be reduced to a state of serfdom. Both the zamindar and the peasant are sick of the affair. It hurts their self-respect. The system of rasai brings discredit on the whole administration. It is high time that the matter should be improved The real way to eradicate this evil is to appoint contractors to do the work of rasai. At the same time introduce free and compulsory education among the people and to take such steps as would make the agricultural comunity like the rest of the population, free and independent. In fact this community should be made the pride of the province.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. No.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo is a general term for every unauthorized exaction levied from a zamindar.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40 Almost all the subordinate officials of all departments take lapo from zamindars. Lapo paid by a zamindar to his tapedar is called anegi. The tapedars at the time of first instalment of the kharif assessment recover the whole anegi from the zamindars on a scale ranging from one anna to three annas per jirib. Zamindars paying heavy assessments pay either one anna per jirib or pay lump sum on mutual understanding. In that case the zamindar supplies the tapedar paddy sufficient to last his horse for the whole year. He also gets paddy for his own consumption Small and petty zamindars pay 2 as. and 3 as. lapo per jireb, some even are made to pay an anna per rupee.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Already answered.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. By a tapedar in the Revenue department anegi is received ostensibly for the purposes of rasai, but really for himself. Only a fraction of it goes to the rasai fund. It is meant to compensate him for the monthly pay that is withheld from him. Seldom a tapedar gets his pay for over two or three months in the year. His paghars go to the rasai fund. In every taluka there is a rasai fund generally managed by the tapedar of the head quarter. When however rasai becomes heavy the zamindar is made to contribute to the rasai fund also.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Already answered.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Money presents to the private or official establishment of officers touring in the taluka are paid by the tapedars from the rasai fund. The private and official establishments of the touring officers' needs must be supplied at any cost.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. I am not in a position to answer.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. The lapo is paid to the tapedar to prevent him from harassing the zamindar with respect to boundary marks, fines for the so-called waste of water and generally to secure his favour in many other matters in which the tapedar is always in a position to help or harass the zamindar. The lapo is paid to the Police Department to prevent the police from creating dissatisfaction in the raj of the zamindar. A zamindar is always anxious to be in good books with the Sub Inspector of the taluka. He is always afraid of section 110 Criminal Procedure Code. It is also meant to prevent him from making unwarranted reports against him to the District Superintendent of Police. In fact this lapo is paid to save his respect. The lapo is paid to the Public Works Department to secure regular supply of water in the rajona karias.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Already answered.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I have been paying during the last five years of my lease lapo and exactions of the nature of lapo, 120 rupees a year.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. Not to my knowledge.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Rasai and lapo generally go hand in hand. If rasai is stopped, lapo system will soon be a thing of the past. If rasai is stopped, tapedar for some time to come will be content with a slight yearly present from his khatedars. But as soon as the khatedars begin to realize their position the giving of presents will also disappear. Therefore steps should be taken to make the zamindar realize his position and that of the tapedar. This could effectually be done by introducing free and compulsory education among them. It is also needful that the fear of section 110 should also be removed.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Means forced and unpaid zamindari labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Cheras are persons who are forced to work at the bidding of the zamindar for Government without getting any wages.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. The Cheras are called on to close breaches, (2) to put roads in repairs, (3) to attend official camps, (4) to pitch and unpitch tents, (5) to carry tapals of officers and other work of like nature.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. The cheras hold their lands on condition that they would perform any labour demanded from them by the zamindars. It is impossible for any one to get land anywhere without such a condition.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. As a rule the cheras do not receive any kind of remuneration from either their zamindars or from the officers of Government. They are fed by the zamindars only on those occasions when they are engaged either in cutting new roads or repairing old roads or closing breaches.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. An Assistant or Deputy Collector requires about 15 labourers to pitch and unpitch his tents and about five otherwise. A Collector's camp requires about 30 cheras for pitching and unpitching tents and about 15 otherwise.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. Already answered.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. No.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. It all depends on the number of friends who form his sporting party.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come most unwillingly.

62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. I am not in a position to answer.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Naturally they must be.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards?

64. Nothing. Only the zamindar gives them meals.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. As many as possible.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. In this case also they get meals from their zamindars.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. The employment of the chheras during the cultivation season tells only upon the hari. By his agreement with the zamindar he is bound to respond to the call for labour made upon him in season and out of season with this reservation that if he is unable to leave the field operations he has to give a substitute who is either his partner or his son. If he can't spare even him he has to pay the zamindar the expenses incurred by him in engaging ordinary labourers in his place. The zamindar recovers that amount from the hari at the time of the batai.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is everywhere available.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. The Chher ought to be abolished altogether. If the number of Local Board malhis is increased and they are made to do their legitimate work properly there will be no need of chher. During the cultivation season many of these malhis hire themselves as labourers and do the transplantation work with the knowledge and connivance of Local Fund mistry. At night time they are engaged at pulling punkhas of the taluka and divisional officers. In winter they do the work of felling trees to get firewood for officials etc. This can easily be put a stop to.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. DOST MUHAMMAD BAHAWAL KHAN.

Prelmiinary.

1. Name. — 1. Dost Muhammad son of Serai Bahawal Khan Jatoi.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindari.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. About Rs. 10,000 Land Revenue.

4. Residence, — 4. Mehrabpur, taluka Labdarya.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate, — 5. District Local Board member, exemption under Arms Act and Commissioner's darbari.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. It means supply of provisions, etc, to officers and their establishments at their camps.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. About 60 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Dokri, Garelo, Mato, Nasirabad, Warah.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the District Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, the Inspector, the Sub-Inspector, their establishments and other officers.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Sheep, kids, chickens, eggs, sometimes mutton, milk, butter, firewood, stalks, rice straw, pegs, grain, rice, flour, vegetables, earthen pots, cots, beds, etc.

11. Whence do you get these supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. We get these supplies partly on payment from shop-keepers and others and partly from our houses. For cots and other petty things we make no payment. Chheras get food only for their work.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. Everything is obtained on payment except grass and firewood and milk (which is however obtained without payment sometimes). No hire is paid for cots.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates? — 13. All things are bought except those which we get from our houses.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Some of these articles are dearer and others cheaper than in large towns. The difference is small.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. We get firewood from our lands or on payment from forest contractors. We get grass from our fields. Those who bring these things to camp are paid just what their food will cost.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. The daily cost in connection with the camps of officers, whether Europeans or Indians is about two thousand per year.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Provisions are supplied to all. At times prepared food is also supplied by the zamindar when the camp is in his own village.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. The daily cost per man is Re. 1.

19. Do you have to provide supplies, also for the clerks of the officers ?

19. Provisions, etc., are supplied to all clerks, peons and private servants.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. The daily cost in the case of a munshi or peon exceeds one rupee.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Cots and jars are supplied at every camp. Kacha huts are erected for stables and for butlers where there are no stables or quarters for butlers.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. The cost varies with the number of men in the camp.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. We receive no payment. If anything is paid by European or Indian officers, it is paid by them to the tapadar or to their butlers and servants.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The loss falls on us only. Small khatedars, if at all, pay to tapadars, darogas and mukadams.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Where there are no Government quarters we provide our own houses or kacha landhis built for the occasion.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. We supply grain from our own stock, failing it, from the market, for which we pay.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. We provide carriages and carts sometimes.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. If we obtain these from our raj it costs us nothing. If we get them from others we pay for them. We receive no payment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Rasai is made for all officers high and low. More is made for the latter than for the former.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. Details of the annual cost have been given above. We receive no payment and demand no payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. As stated above, about Rs. 2,000 per year.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. No answer.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. We prepare no bills, as we receive no payment.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. There is no independent contractor here. Zamindars provide and tapadars give.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. Independent contractors can be found for talukas, divisions or districts, if endeavour is made and fair rates allowed to them.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. The following are my principal objections and reasons:—

(1) There is great extravagance in camp because no payment is made. If payment were made there would be greater ceonomy.

(2) Rasai is illegal and is made under apprehension and not from choice.

(3) Lapo too is paid in order to obtain relief from annoyances and not for the purpose of rasai.

(4) Rasai will be stopped if independent contractors are appointed, if camp establishments of officers are reduced, and if camps are made at taluka head-quarters only where supplies can be had from the bazar, without much difficulty.

37. Dalis do not cost us much and no force or pressure is exercised in obtaining them. They are given at one's pleasure and not in obedience to any order. Personally, I have no objection to this practice.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. I am not in favour of stopping dalis. It is a matter in which there is no compulsion.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. By lapo I understand unauthorized payments received in cash or kind by subordinate officials and servants.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. Unauthorized lapo is levied in cash or kind by subordinate officials of the departments referred to.

41. It is levied in different forms in different departments. Tapadars and supervising tapadars levy it at a certain rate per acre, munshis and peons levy it at camps according to the position of the zamindars; policemen levy it some times according to the position of the zamindar and sometimes according to the number of camps, in cash and kind; Public Works Department levy it on karias, khuhadas, cattle and camps; Forest Department levy it in cash, grain and butter according to the number of cattle or at so much per village.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Subordinate officials of all departments who have outdoor work take lapo for their own benefit, and not for rasai.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. We pay lapo to tapadars for fear of annoyances from them and not for the purpose of rasai. I now do not pay lapo personally; but my sons and kamdars pay it of which I am sure.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishment of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Sometimes tapadars take over and above the lapo, some cash from zamindars at the time of camps. My sons also pay such demands at times.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. They take occasional money presents which we make to save our respect. They also take annuities. The annuity amounts to Rs. 100 or 150.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Lapo is paid not for favours but in order to obtain security from the unjust annoyances of subordinates of all departments.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Subordinate officials take it according to the facilities made. In my case these payments amount Rs. 100.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. My annual expenditure in respect of all is within a thousand rupees.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No. Nor was the system of contract encouraged by officers.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. It has not been reduced because the system of direct payment to mukhtiarkars is not availed of generally.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. If Government adopts the following measures lapo will be stopped.

(a) The period of tour should be curtailed, the camp establishment of touring officers should be decreased and camps should be made at taluka head quarters only.

(b) Independent contractors should be appointed for making rasai at camps.

(c) The powers of supervising tapadars, tapadars, muccudams and daroghas should be curtailed, policemen and others should not stay except at police chowri. No one should be allowed to harass people. The powers under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code should be transferred to magistrates.

(d) Revenue officers should not have magisterial powers. Revenue and Judicial functions should be separated.

(e) In each taluka there should be respectable men appointed as spies.

(f) A responsible officer should be appointed to each district to make inquiries into matters relating to rasai, etc.

(g) The Police Department should work under the supervision of and in consultation with zamindars subject to the control of the taluka magistrate.

(h) The powers of the subordinate officials of the Public Works Department should be curtailed. They should work in consultation with the local zamindars under the control of the Sub-Divisional Officer. Subordinate officers should do nothing on their own initiative.

(i) For work done for Government full wages should be paid as was the case formerly. Zamindars who assist should be rewarded according to the chher etc., provided by them.

(j) In the Forest Department too the powers of officials should be curtailed and they should work in consultation with the zamindars concerned.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means the supply by the zamindar of haris and men of his raj for Government work.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Chheras are men supplied by the zamindar.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To prepare camping grounds (for Revenue, Forest and Public Works Department officers), to erect embankments, to repair roads, to close breaches, to keep in order gardens, to pitch tents, to bring firewood and grass to camp and to fetch water, etc., etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Chheras are zamindars' haris. They are at times called upon to do work for themselves and Government in return for which they are made concessions or given their wages.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. They get food from zamindars and concessions are made to them at the time of batai. Zamindars forego their share of the grass and allow haris cattle to graze dubari crop. They get food only from Government, when employed on breaches. On other occasions they get from the local zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. From 10 to 40 according to the strength of the establishment.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. Sometimes hundreds of chheras are employed on preparing camping grounds. The number required for pitching tents depends upon the strength of the establishment. It varies from 19 to 50.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. Zamindars give them food but officers pay them nothing.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. For partridge shooting 5 to 10 chheras, and for duck and pig shooting 100 to 200.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. The shikar season coincides with the harvest time. Chheras therefore come unwillingly. They get food from zamindars, but nothing from officers. Only those 5 or 6 chheras who are in personal attendance on officers get some bakshish from them if they get a good shikar.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. Malhis do not do the work of Local Fund roads properly. They do not look after them. At times zamindars are troubled to supply chher. No payment is made.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Yes.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. Zamindars feed them food; Local Boards pay them nothing.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. In case of floods and breaches of canals banks, from 20 to 1,000 chheras are required.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. At canal breaches chheras get food only; on other occasions they get nothing. Chher in the abkalani season interferes with cultivation and causes loss to the chheras themselves and their zamindars.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras,' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. In my neighbourhood a few labourers can be had on 8 annas a day during the cultivation season.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. A contractor can procure more labourers than a zamindar can.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Zamindars and haris will not prosper until chher is stopped. Chher should be abolished and supplies to touring officers should be provided by contractors entirely.

The following notes are submitted separately for consideration.

(1) Of all the departments the revenue officials of the district whose head is the Collector, try their best to stop this evil of rasai. For instance our present Collector Mr. Bolus exerted himself to stop rasai, issued strict orders to subordinates to put a stop to the usual practice of making rasai for butlers, peons, munshis and officers, gave similar orders to us zamindars personally and took an undertaking from us to stop rasai. But the evil is a long-established one and special measures should be taken to stop it. Unless this is done, the Collector's orders alone will not serve the purpose. No special measures have as yet been taken in the Public Works, Forest and Police departments.

(2) The police tyrannies and ill treatment are intolerable and to escape these, people are compelled to make rasai. There are several people who havesuffered such tyrannies and they will be produced if justice will be done to them.

(3) The means of livelihood are in the hands of the engineers. Until therefore the Collector has control over the engineers it will not be possible to stop their lapo and rasai.

(4) There are villages, lands or roads leading to villages or lands in forest limits. Cattle also graze in forests. The forest officials take opportunities to give trouble to people in such matters and thus serve their objects.

(5) So long as subordinate officials can exercise such powers to harass people, the latter will fear them and consequently rasai and lapo will not cease.

(6) Even in hospitals every opportunity is taken to harass patients, if no proper rasai is made. The good object of Government is defeated.

(7) Fixed sums of lapo are levied also in civil courts from plaintiffs and defendants. It is levied in the form of a fee. This is not the case in other courts.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ALLAH BAKSH BUGHIO.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Allah Baksh Bughio, zamindar taluka Labdarya, district Larkana.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindari.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue — 3. I pay about Rs. 1,600 land revenue.

4. Residence. — 4. Gote Allahabad, taluka Labdarya.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Am a Khan Saheb.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. It means to supply provisions at camps.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 40 to 45 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Dokri (formerly Bakrani), Hasan Wahan, the bank of the river, and my own village.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Mukhtiarkar, the Deputy Collector, the Collector, the Commissioner and other officers.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Fowls, eggs, mutton, etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. Grain, butter, etc., are obtained from Hindu shop-keepers; fowls, eggs, grass, firewood and milk are supplied by us.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. We do not get them from haris. We supply them ourselves, getting a few things from small zamindars.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rate? — 13. We pay for fowls, eggs and partly for milk.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Milk has a market value. As regards grass it is brought and supplied if it is not in our stock.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. Firewood is brought from the jungles by the haris.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. I have not worked it out.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. I have not worked it out.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. I have not worked it out.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. I have not worked it out.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. Hindu shop-keepers receive payment in part. European officers pay their bills to their butlers.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss never falls on the haris. It falls on us or the tapadars.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. They live in houses or tents. No new house is built for them.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Sometimes we have to supply carts to the next camp. Generally the kit is carried on camels.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. When they encamp in my village, I must supply them with provisions.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. I have not worked it out.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. Do.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. I make the rasai myself assisted by the tapadars.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. Sometimes shop-keepers receive payment, sometimes tapadars pay them, recovering what they have paid from the zamindars. The zamindars receive no payment for milk, grass and firewood.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. If contractors are appointed, zamindars will be freed from the bother.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. When contractors are obtainable for works varying in amount from Rs. 5 to lacs or rupees, there is no reason why they cannot be had for this purpose. Subordinate officials who are responsible for making rasai adopt rough methods.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. If a contractor is appointed for a camp, zamindars will not be responsible.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?

37. Formerly this practice was largely prevalent. A little of it remains.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. It is practically non-existent.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. We pay lapo to subordinate officials at each harvest.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

40. It is paid in cash.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. The Police only do not take lapo. Tapadars take it at a certain rate per acre.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Tapadars levy it for the ostensible purpose of making rasai for their superior officers. The Forest and Public Works Department subordinates give the same excuse. Inspectors and thanedars do not take lapo.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Zamindars pay money to none except the tapadar.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. Government officials make money payments and they may be knowing about these things.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Lapo is paid from fear of harm.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. It has not been reduced.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. Since mukhtiarkars themselves allow the levy of lapo, how can it be reduced?

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Only the mukhtiarkar and the head munshi can stop lapo.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour employed on certain kinds of work without payment.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. They are required for camps, repairing roads, closing breaches, repairing bunds, etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Haris whether they like it or not are bound to do whatever their zamindar tells them to do.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. They receive no payment.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get food only from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. 10 to 15.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. If they are called for a day only, they come willingly; but if they are called for a longer period they come unwillingly. European officers pay them sometimes.

62 How many "Chheras;" if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

62. Funds of local boards are generally wasted with the result that when there is work to be done, there is no money.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. They are of benefit to all.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras.' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. According to the amount of the work.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get dry bread from zamindars and occasionally some wages from the zamindars.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. During the cultivation season haris themselves employ men on 8 annas a day but get themselves hardly 4 annas a day. In this way chher interferes with cultivation.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HARDASMAL UDERDINOMAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Hardasmal Uderdinomal.

2. Appointment. — 2. Deputy Collector, Mehar, (since 10th February 1918).

3. Head-quarters. — 3. Larkana.

4. Length of service — 4. 25 years 9 months.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. All in Sind.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. In my present appointment, I have to tour in the whole of Mehar Division of which the area is 1192 square miles.

7. What is the period of your tour? — 7. 210 Days.

8. What private servants acompany you on tour? — 8. 1 cook, 1 other Hindu servant and 1 camelman.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? — 9. 2 Clerks, 3 Revenue munshis, 2 Judicial munshis and 4 Peons.

10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? — 10. I carry with me in camp for myself and my two personal attendants almost all the food supplies required such as rice, flour, ghee, dry vegetables, dal, spices, sugar, etc. replenishing my stock where necessary by purchase from the bazar in big villages. My other private servant and the official establishment do not carry any supplies with them.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 11. For myself and my personal attendants the following articles are required in camp locally: milk, butter, firewood, earthen chatties, water and cots. The other establishment is supplied with provisions as well as other necessaries (in the shape of firewood, earthen chatties, water and cots) in camp.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? — 12. Official—chairs and tables. Private—folding chairs, teapoys, bath-stool and copper jars.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? — 13. 3 cots and about 3 to 4 earthen jars.

14. What tents do you take on tour? — 14. 1 hill tent, one officer's tent (only one of these two is generally pitched at each camp while the other goes in advance to the next camp) one necessary tent and one rowti for servants.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? — 15. Two of my private servants live in rowti or when it is too hot to live in it then in a kacha landhi. The third servant lives under the shade of trees near his camel. The office establishment (superior) live in Local Fund musafirkhana, or tapedar's dera, or if there is no such building at any place then in zamindari otaks, while the peons live in a rowti provided by Government.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? — 16. No stable is required, as I have no horses.

17. What records do you take on tour? — 17. Current and last two years' records. English as well as Sindhi, Revenue, Judicial and Local Fund.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ?

18. I hold my office in my own tent, and my establishment holds office in the tent provided by Government for the purpose.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ?

19. About half a dozen men for help in pitching and about as many in knocking down tents and in loading kit on camels on the night of marching.

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?

20. Quite fair.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?

21. Taluka Local Board through the Chairman Works Committee who is the Mukhtiarkar of the taluka. The ordinary repairs are done by the beldar establishment, and special repairs by contract.

22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ?

22. No special road repairs are required or done for my marching.

23. What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head quarters ?

23. I keep baggage camels on monthly hire up to April after which I have generally to camp at Taluka Headquarters and stay there for periods ranging from 7 to 15 days and engage carts for the march locally.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?

24. I send for my post at taluka Headquarters where, if I am encamped out in the taluka, it is delivered to the Mukhtiarkar who sends it to my camp with a mounted kotar. Similar arrangements are made for despatch of post unless the camp is at a place where there is a post office.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ?

25. The usual camping places in my Division are :—

Taluka Mehar—Mehar, * Tharri Mahbat, Radhan Station, * Nao Goth, Balishah * Manjan, Mangwani and Faridabad.

Taluka Kakar—* Khairpur Nathan Shah, * Kakar, * Sita Road Station, * Mado, Burira, Nasir Mahomed and Khanpur.

Taluka Warah—* Warah, * Nasirabad, * Khadehri, Bothro, Dera, Wagan, Lalu Ranwak, Gaji Khuhawar and Hamal.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?

26. Camping grounds at these places are put in order either by the Local Fund Establishment or by zamindari labour.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ?

27. Every one of them.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. The District Bungalow at Warah is in the midst of a Local Fund garden, while the camping ground at Khairpur Nathanshah and the Public Works Department Bungalows at Manjan, Sita Road Station and Khadehri have small vegetable gardens attached to them.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ?

29. Those marked* in the list given under No. 25 above.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. One chowkidar for each of the bungalows at Mehar, Warah, Nasirabad, Khairpur Nathanshah, Mado, and Kakar on Rs. 8 per mensem. The other Bungalows are Public Works Department Inspection chowkies and I am not quite sure what establishment is attached to each.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Rasai in the sense in which it is so commonly understood means satisfying the requirements of a person without payment or for a low price; it also includes cash payments.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. One seer milk, ¼ seer butter and ½ a maund of fuel. I am a vegetarian.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. The requirements of my two private servants whom I have to supply food are included in those mentioned in No. 32 above. Those of my third servant are:—Atta 1½ pao, rice 1½ pao, milk ½ a seer and mutton 1 pao (occasionally), and of my official establishment:—

Superior Establishment.

Atta	3½ seer.	Butter	1¼ pao.
Rice	2¼ seer.	Milk	5 seers.
Ghee	¾ seer.	Fuel	1½ maunds.
Sugar	1 pao.	Mutton	1¾ seers.
Spices	5 annas.	Earthen jars	1 dozen.

Inferior.

Atta	1 seer.	Spices	1 anna.
Rice	1 seer.	Sugar	½ pao.
Milk	2 seers.	Mutton	1 seer.
Ghee	½ a pao.	Fuel	½ maund.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. The average prices are as under:—

Atta	5 seers per rupee.	Milk	1 anna per seer.
Rice	4 seers per rupee.	Butter	12 annas a seer.
Eggs	3 annas a dozen.	Bajri or Juar stalks	8 bundles a rupee.
Fowl	6 annas each.	Firewood	6 annas a maund.
Sheep	4 rupees each.		

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Milk has market value almost everywhere and so fuel except in very outlying places, but I am not sure of grass, for I have known in several cases mukhtiarkars not taking into consideration the value of grass for purposes of determining remissions on the ground that it has no value and is the perquisite of the haris.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. The average daily cost of our requirements taken in the camp is about Rs. 6.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Grain, provision such as rice, sugar, ghee, spices, etc., are purchased by the the members of the establishment according to their requirements, from the bazar. Other articles are provided either by the zamindar or if there is no zamindar then the tapedar and sent to the camp with his kamdar or kotar.

38. How are they paid for?

38. They are paid for on the last day on the zamindar or tapedar's bill for the things supplied by him. But no payment is demanded for fuel and jars, and sometimes the members of the establishment are allowed by the zamindar mutton, milk and butter also free. For the articles supplied by the bania he settles the account and receives payment therefor before the camp marches. When paying my own bill I make it a point to inquire if my establishment has paid for everything and generally find that it has.

39. **What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?**

39. There is absolutely no guarantee.

40. **How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?**

40. Except for articles supplied free, I do not suppose there is much difference so far as I have been able to ascertain in this office, between the estimated cost of articles supplied and those paid for.

41. **If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?**

42. **Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars ?**

41 and 42. If the payment is returned to the members of the camp, it is either the zamindar or the tapedar who has ultimately to bear the burden, or it is paid from the rasai fund. In no case is it paid by the mukhtiarkar from his pocket.

43. **Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?**

43. No payment is demanded for the use of water jars and cots which are returned when the camp marches. No other furniture is requisitioned, nor are stables erected.

44. **Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds maintained by Local Funds ?**

44. I occasionally do receive vegetables from Local Fund gardens. No payment is made therefor (under the Commissioner's No. , dated the and Collector of Larkana's Circular No. 4795, dated the 18th September 1905).

45. **Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?**

45. It is impossible to curtail my private establishment, but I believe the official establishment can be curtailed without detriment to Government work. The Serishtedar and the Head Munshi are the only two subordinates, besides say a couple of peons indispensible on tour; the remaining establishment can remain at Taluka Head-quarters to be within an easy call, if or when, required while the officer is touring in the taluka.

46. **Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public sevice ?**

46. At present the Sub-Divisional Officer has to start on tour about the end of October and he is out in his division for 210 days exclusive of holidays or casual leave. This keeps him in his Division upto about the 15th June and some times even later. If the restriction of 210 days were removed, and the officer required to be out in his Division from November to May except with the permission of the Collector, Government work would not suffer thereby to any material extent.

47. **How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?**

47. The orders of 1914 are not in operation in Warah taluka as no zamindar would undertake to supply provisions at different camps, nor could any contractor be found. In the other two talukas also the orders are not working well and the tapedar has not altogether been eliminated from the scene vide Collector's Circular No. 1016, dated 21st February 1918.

48. **Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?**

48. I think there should be general orders that officers should move out with camp only to some few central and important places, where everything could be had on payment, and do then inspection of outlying places from there. By this means the evil of rasai would be considerably minimised. The rest must depend upon the attitude of the officer himself. No contractor will undertake to supply provisions, etc., to touring officers, whether he is given contract for a taluka or division.

49. **Have you been able to give regular and timely inimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?**

49. No.

50. No special report on the working of the orders of 1914 has been submitted to or by me but I know as a matter of fact that they are not being followed and the matter is not unknown to the Collector, vide please my reply to question No. 47.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars ?

51. No, not from any subordinates but I do not object to receive once and only once small fruit dalis from those respectable zamindars who I know would be hurt by refusal.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep ?

52. The estimated cost of such a dali is from Rs. 2 to Rs.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government ?

53. The orders on the subject are contained in the last sentence of paragraph 2 of rule 2 of the Government Servants Conduct Rules, which runs as under :—"Any Government servant may accept a complimentary present of flowers or fruit or similar articles of trifling value. The practice of giving such presents should however be discouraged." I have tried to follow them to the best of my power.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. The term 'Lapo' as commonly used means the payment made by a land holder on his cultivation to a subordinate Government servant, over and above the Government dues.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ?

55. I am not aware of more than one unauthorized form of lapo.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?

56. It is levied in the Revenue Department by the Tapedar on the cultivation raised by land holder and in the Forest Department by the Forester on the cultivation raised within the Forest limits. The primary object of the levy of lapo by a Government servant is to fill his own pocket, but later on he has to part with a large portion of it for making rasai.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ?

57. The rates vary at different places.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ?

58 The general report is that the tapedar contributes his pay for as many months as is required to cover the cost of his share of rasai for touring officials. But if a tapedar does not take lapo and I know of at least one such instance though not in this district, he has not to pay the rasai.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund ?

59. I am unable to say who manages the rasai fund, but it is either some tapedar or supervising tapedar or the taluka head munshi

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo utilized for money presents to the private or official establistments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ?

60. I believe tips are paid to the private and official establishments of touring officers, but I an unable to give any reliable figure

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

61. I am unable to say for other departments, but the tapedar who receives lapo from a zamindar no doubt connives at his shortcomings in return e. g. in regard to waste of water, unauthorized change of peech, etc., etc.

62. The tenderness that is sometimes observed in the establishment examining the records of subordinate officers goes to show that there must be some such reason as payment for the occasion, or annuity, but I have no further reliable information on the point as to the amount so spent.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ?

63. Not very much as far as I am aware.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ?

64. I have had no special official reports on the subject of levy of unauthorized lapo. Local orders of Government and the Commissioner in Sind there are for its stoppage, but if zamindars give it clandestinely and of their own accord (apparently because they think that the tapdar will harm them if they do not), and when questioned altogether deny having paid anything; it is difficult to see how the offending parties can be punished.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ?

65. The following measures are suggested as tending to prevent the giving of lapo by rayats.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ?

(1) Education by which people should know their true rights.

(2) Sincere and earnest desire on the part of the mukhtyarkar to come into touch with the rayats directly and not through tapedars or supervising tapedars. The best means to secure this end is to hold kacheries every month in the real spirit of the orders of 1905 and to deal with all matters promptly and as far as possible in the presence of and after hearing the rayats concerned. This would minimise the influence of tapedar and any payment that is now made to him through fear will in due course cease.

(3) Reducing the charges of tapedars to such an extent as to leave each man what he can can manage efficiently. At present some of the charges are so big that it is impossible to take a apedar to task for any omission on his part to report a land holder's unauthorized action, which omission may have been quite intentional because of payment received or promised but for which he can safely plead over-work.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Chher means free labour for unskilled work.

67. Who are the 'Chheras" ?

67. Cheras are the persons who have to perform that work. They are generally cultivators under zamindars.

68. They do all kinds of unskilled work that is required of them e.g. repairing roads, digging water courses, repairing bunds or canal banks, pitching tents, helping in loading and unloading officers' kit, putting up hedges round forest compartments, clearing camping grounds, etc., etc.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

69. It is customary for cultivators to work as chheras under their zamindar occasionally when required though there is no such express condition attached to their tenancy where that is obtained under an agreement.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?

70. They receive only food either from zamindars or from Government officials.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?

71. Casual paid labour is available almost everywhere in the Division at all times except when haris are required in fields.

72. There are in all 71 Beldars maintained by the Local Boards in this Division as under:—Mehar 26, Kakar 23, and Warah 22

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?

73. There is no legal binding on zamindars to supply labour to Government except under Section 58 Irrigation Act under which on the requisition of a canal officer every able bodied person is bound to render assistance in emergent cases.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?

74. There is only one seri grant in the whole division comprising 8 acres of land. The holder of it is also a zamindar and gives such assistance as he can when the camp is in his village, which is very rare.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ?

75. For pitching and unpitching tents and for loading and unloading kit.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?

76. Two men for miscellaneous work such as bringing fuel, water, etc.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. Half a dozen.

78. Whence do you obtain them ?

78. They are generally Local Fund beldars, but sometimes they are supplied by zamindars also.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?

79. No.

What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?

80. About Rs. 5 each camp of about 3 days The labour could be obtained from the rasai contractor if one could be found.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?

81. The increase in establishment for the purpose would be more costly than getting labour through the rasai contractor.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ?

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?

82 to 84. I do not do shikar.

85. Occasionally labour is required for putting Local Fund roads in specially good order (e.g. on the occasion of the visit of a high officer like the Commissioner in Sind) when the provision in the budget is not sufficient for the purpose and then zamindari assistance is taken, the extent of which depends upon the requirements in each case.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

86. I or other local officials do not pay the labourers for this work, but the zamindars sometimes give them food and sometimes cash payment.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

87. That depends upon the conditions of each case.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

88. The labourers are given only food by Government officials.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

89. That depends upon the time when their services are required. If they are required after the transplantation of rice is over, there is no interference with cultivation, but if they are called earlier while cultivation or transplantation is in progress then their absence from fields means so much loss to them in the shape of shortage of cultivation. But in that case it has to be borne in mind that if the canal on which their cultivation is settled is the one which has breached, they cannot generally cultivate until the breach is closed, and no one profits more than they by the early closing of the breach.

90. There can be no doubt that the absence of beldars from their duty to attend to the camps of officers does interfere with their ordinary work; the extent of such interference however depends in each case upon the period of absence.

90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

91. No.

91. Have you any special reports on Chher or local orders?

92. Chher under Section 58 of the Irrigation Act should not be stopped. People would suffer thereby more than Government. It seems to me that if the labour is paid for as provided by the last clause of the Section there would probably be no complaint. But it often happens that zamindars do not want cash payment in the prospect of public recognition of their services by the Collector or Executive Engineer so that while they are rewarded they give nothing to the poor labourer. That however is the business between the labourer and his employer the zamindar. For Local Fund works, there is no legal binding on the zamindar to supply labour when required and he does so because he expects his services to be rewarded by the grant of some honour. For officers' camps, if chher is stopped, it will be necessary to engage casual labour for the occasion and if this is done through Pasai contractor (provided one can be found) there will be no difficulty.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

APPENDIX TO THE EVIDENCE OF MR. WADHUMAL TARACHAND AT PP, 78-87 ANTE.

Details of balance after settling the account of expenses incurred in the year 1916-17 *for Headquarters Dadu taluka, Dadu.*

Debit.	Rs. a. p.	Credit.	Rs. a. p.
Jethomal	778 0 0	Mian Sheralishah	142 0 0
,, ...	70 8 0	,, Imambaksh	184 0 0
Munshi Jawharmal	91 4 9	,, Muhammad Sidik ..	100 0 0
,, ...	89 8 0	Munshi Pahlumal	76 0 0
Mian Abdulah	32 10 0		
,, ...	64 6 9	Total ..	502 0 0
,, ...	36 0 0		
Munshi Jawharmal	124 9 0	Munshi Mahomed Parial	35 0 0
Buggies	13 8 0	Paid by Mian Abdulah for ..	
Bhojomal, Larkana	3 0 0	Dayaldas	12 8 0
,, Papers ..	3 0 0	Paid by Mian Abdulah for	
Abdul Hamid	2 12 0	himself	10 0 0
Larkana, Jafar	3 0 0	Mian Muhammad Sidik ..	4 0 0
Fare up to Phutowah ..	1 5 6	,, Ali Muhammad ..	3 0 0
		Paid by Bhai Nichaldas for	
Total ..	1,313 8 0	Munshi Pahlumal	36 0 0
	602 8 0		
		Total ..	602 8 0
Balance	711 0 0		
	346 0 0		
	365 0 0		

Total expenses of Dadu taluka from August 1917 *to February* 1918

	Rs. a. p
Bhai Jethomal Niadi	668 10 2
Nenumal and others	22 11 9
Tuljo ærated water seller	31 9 6
Tharoomal liquor-seller	31 13 0
Daryadinomal Thakur	13 8 0
Taromal Thakur	9 10 3
Khatanmal fruit-seller	75 11 6
Imambaksh peon for fowls	46 15 0
Achar butcher	55 2 0
Amount spent by Munshi Jawharmal	206 12 6
Amount spent by Munshi Jawharmal	895 1 1
Buggywalas	63 6 0
Camelmen	10 14 0
Bullock-cart drivers	65 11 0
Camp Puranodero	249 11 0
,, Khudabad	240 0 0
,, Mondar	131 1 9
Total ..	2,818 4 6
Balance of 1916-17 as per chits with the mali	364 8 0
Grand total	3,182 12 6

Spent by Munshi Jawharmal—	
	91 4 9
	89 8 0
	124 9 0
	13 8 0
	318 13 9
	206 12 6
	895 1 1
Total	1,420 11 4
	1,010 0 0
	410 11 4

Abstract account of Modi Jethomal, from August 1917 *to February* 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

	Rs.	a.	p.		Rs.	a.	p.
For Flour, Rice, Ghee, Tins, Molasses, Mats, Coal, Jars, Dhaknis (lids of Jars) oil cakes, gram as per appended list	68	5	0	Given in cash by Munshi Jawharmal out of the pay of Tapadars	100	0	0
				Ditto ditto ..	40	0	0
Miscellaneous cash expenses and Khandas as per appended list	253	13	2				
Account of August-September made up as per balance sheet	70	8	0				
Arrears of last year 1916-17	276	0	0				
Total up to February 1918	668	10	2				
				Balance ..	528	10	2 (in pencil).

Abstract of provisions taken from Modi Jethamal, Hindu, from August 1917 *to February* 1918, *Headquarters taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

Name of article.	Weight.	Price.		
	Mds. S. P.	Rs.	a.	p.
Flour	2 37 1	20	4	0
Rice (sugdasi)	0 35 2	8	8	0
„ (sathria)	0 18 3	2	13	0
	Seers P. Ch.			
Ghee	7 0 ½	9	8	0
Empty tins of kerosine oil	13 in No.	10	10	0
	Seers P. Ch.			
Molasses	7 2 1	2	4	0
Mats (pelsh)	8 in No.	1	14	0
Coal	24 0 0	1	8	0
Potatoes	0 1 0	0	1	0
Jars	123 in No.	6	6	0
Dhaknis (lids)	51 in No.	0	3	0
Oil cake	30 0 0	2	6	0
Peas	32 0 0	2	0	0
	Total ..	68	5	0

Account of Modi Jethomal, from August 1917 to July 1918 year 1917-18 Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

	Rs.	a.	p.
To drum-beater for beating of drum at the time of erecting bund	0	6	0
One lock for Muridalishah	0	10	0
One broom and a rope for Muridalishah	0	2	3
Two brooms and a rope for Muridalishah	0	3	0
To Malhi for Milk	0	6	0
Molasses to Murid camelman	0	2	0
To Murid camelman for Meals	0	1	0
To Malhi of Johi	0	1	0
To Murid camelman for meals	0	1	0
Pepper and coriander	0	0	6
4 earthen pots and an empty bottle to Miro	0	8	0
Repairing charges for a chair and a screw to Imambaksh	0	3	0
One bottle to Thakur Taro	0	9	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	1	0
To Murid and Nabu camelmen for mutton	0	1	6
Ditto ditto ditto	0	1	3
Ditto ditto ditto	0	1	0
Ditto ditto ditto	0	0	9
Ditto ditto ditto	0	1	0
Ditto ditto tobacco	0	0	3
Ditto ditto mutton	0	1	6
To Ismail Kotar for a rope	0	1	6
To Jurio Kotar for mutton.	0	1	6
To Nabibaksh camelman on account of Khandha	0	10	6
Tobacco, of Lar, 4 chattanks, to Ismail Kotar	0	2	0
To Ismail Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
One Kundo and Dakhis (earthen pots) to Teju servant	0	2	3
One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar	0	2	6
One dangi (earthen baking pan) for Hayat, peon	0	1	0
One bottle of Kerosine oil for the Daftardar	0	2	6
To Dino Kotar for anything to eat with bread or rice	0	1	6
One Tuwa (straw mat) to the servant of Munshi Abdul Khalik	0	3	3
2 Cigarettes and a match box to Rasulbux, peon	0	0	9
2 red fans for Munshi Abdul Khalik	0	2	0
To Bulu Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
One Thobi (baking pan) to the camelmen of the Daftardar	0	4	0
¾ seer of salt to 3 camelmen of the Daftardar	0	1	0
To 3 camelmen of the Daftardar for mutton	0	1	6
One bottle of Kerosine oil for the Daftardar	0	2	6
Tinning of pots for Munshi Abdul Khalik	0	6	0
Tinning of pots for Hindu Munshis of the Collector	0	12	0
Bags of Bafta cloth Munshis of the Collector	0	9	0
To the labourers of Seth Kodanmal, for mutton	0	1	6
To Dino Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Ismail Kotar for mutton	0	6	0
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
One Pati (seer) of Paddy to Muridalishah	0	1	0
One Kunari (big earthen pot) do.	0	1	3
One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar	0	2	6
To the buggy-wala of Johi for mutton..	0	0	6
Jowari 6 Patis to the buggy-wala	0	8	0
Fish for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector..	0	5	0
Prawns ditto ditto	0	3	0
To Hassan Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
Ropes, cigarettes and match boxes to Basomal, servant of the Daftardar	0	7	0
To the Malhi of Johi for mutton	0	0	6
To the postman for mutton	0	1	0
To Rasul peon for sugar	0	1	0
To the postman for sugar	0	0	6
To Abdulah postman for mutton	0	1	0
To Ismail Kotar for mutton	0	3	0

	Rs.	a.	p
Sugar candy 6 chatanks to the servant of the Munshis of the Deputy Collector	0	3	0
To Hassan Kotar for mutton	0	2	0
Tobacco, black, one seer for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector	0	8	0
To Hassan Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
For the meals of the Secretary, Larkana	0	6	6
To one buggy-wala and a camelman for mutton	0	4	0
To the camelman of Ali Murad Shah (illegible) bullock cart	0	1	0
To Haji Camelman do.	0	0	6
To Hassan Kotar do.	0	2	0
To Darya Khan Beldar for mutton	0	0	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
To Arab Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Ismail Kotar for mutton	0	4	0
One rope to Ismail Kotar	0	1	6
Alum 4 chatanks for the Collector	0	2	0
Tobacco to Dostmahomed camelman	0	0	3
Pulse (mauh and mung) for the Collector	0	2	0
To baggage camelman of the Mukhtiarkar for mutton	0	0	6
Cuminseed, cardamon, and cinnamon for the butler of the Collector	0	0	9
Vegetables, etc., for the Secretary, Larkana	0	1	3
To Hassan Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
One cake soap for the sweeper of the Collector	0	1	9
Tobacco, black, Lari, to Ismail Kotar	0	2	0
Tobacco and Pulse (mung and mauh) for the butler of the Collector	0	5	6
To Hassan Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	1	0
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	2	0
To Arab Kotar for mutton	0	1	6
Spices to the butler of the Collector	0	0	6
Pulse (mung) to the butler of the Collector	0	2	0
8 cigarettes to the butler of the Collector	0	2	0
To the peon of the Deputy Collector for mutton	0	2	6
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Gulam Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Pirano Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Hassan Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Kotar of Tapa Aktar for mutton	0	0	6
To Arab Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Arab Kotar for mutton	0	1	6
To Ismail Kotar for Pulse (mung and chana)	0	1	9
2 new gunny-bags to Khanumal servant of the Diwan Sahib	1	10	0
To Pirano Kotar for mutton	0	0	6
Tobacco 4 chatanks for Munshi Shah Nawaz	0	2	0
2 cubits bafta cloth for the rowties of the Collector	0	6	0
To Ismail Kotar for mutton	0	4	0
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	2	0
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
To Pirano Kotar for mutton	0	0	6
Tobacco 4 chatanks to Ismail Kotar	0	2	0
To Pirano Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Arab Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
Two bottles Kerosine oil for the Collector	0	5	0
One rope to the servant of the Munshis of the Daftardar	0	1	6
Pulse (mung and chana) 4 chatanks to the butler of the Collector	0	1	9
To Hassan Kotar for mutton	0	0	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	1	3
Grain for horses of Jasumal and Takhtmal buggy-walas	1	0	0
To Murid camelman for tobacco and mutton	0	2	6
To Dino Kotar for tobacco and mutton	0	2	0
To Arab Kotar for tobacco and mutton	0	1	0
12 cigarettes for the butler of the Collector	0	3	0
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	1	6
Sugar, fine flour and raisins for the butler of the Collector	1	3	0
2 coils of rope for landis	0	2	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Pulse (mung and chana) for the butler of the Collector	0	1	9
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Arab Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Pirano Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
Sugar 1¼ seer for the butler of the Collector	0	8	9
Tobacco ½ seer for peon	0	2	0
To Dino Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	1	0
To Jurio Kotar for mutton	0	2	0
To Pirano Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To the camelmen of Rajo Khan for mutton	0	1	6
To Piaro and Ibrahim camelmen for mutton	0	1	0
Sugar-candy for the Head Munshi of the Deputy Collector	1	0	0
Sugar-candy and tobacco for the Munshis of the Daftardar	0	3	6
Onions and " Papar " (curry cakes made of dal) for the Munshis of the Daftardar	0	1	6
Mutton for the camelmen of the Munshis of the Daftardar	0	0	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	0	6
Gram 2 Toyas to the buggywalas of Johi	2	0	0
Sugar 2 chatanks to the buggywalas of Johi	0	1	0
To Hassan Kotar for sugar	0	0	6
To Dino Kotar for mutton	0	1	0
To camelmen (of impressed camels) for mutton	0	1	0
To the camelmen of Rajo Khan for mutton	0	1	6
One seer tobacco for Chaodi	0	8	0
To camelmen (of impressed camels) for mutton	0	1	0
To the camelman of Rajo Khan for mutton	0	0	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
Jowari 1 Toyo for the horse of Diwan Sahib	0	5	3
4 Tuwas (straw mats) for the servant of the Daftardar	0	12	0
One coil of rope, cigarette packet, soap for the servant of the Daftardar	0	8	6
Sugar-one seer to the servant of the Daftardar	0	7	0
Fine flour 1¼ seer to the servant of the Daftardar	0	5	0
5 ropes to the servant of the Daftardar	0	10	0
2 cigarettes to the servant of the Daftardar	0	6	0
2 balls of thread, 1 packet needles and 2 match boxes to the servant of the Daftardar	0	4	0
Rope (Wan) 8 seers for the Head Munshi to the Deputy Collector	1	2	0
Muslin 3 cubits for the Daftardar	0	8	0
To the camelmen of Johi for mutton	0	1	0
One cake soap to Sumar peon	0	1	9
Fare to Piru Malhi	1	0	0
To Lalbux, peon for mutton	0	0	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
Sugar 2 chatanks for Lalbux, peon	0	1	0
Oil, sugar-candy, onions for the Munshis of the Daftardar	0	4	3
Jowari 1 Toya to the Naik of Johi for his horse	0	6	0
To the Naik of Johi for tobacco and meals	0	2	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	0	9
Ditto ditto	0	1	6
Ditto ditto	0	2	0
To the Malhi of Johi for mutton	0	0	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
To the Syce of the Collector for mutton	0	1	3
Gram 2 seers and Jowari 2 seers for the horse of the Collector	0	7	0
To the Syce of the Collector for mutton	0	1	3
To Bihari Malhi for mutton	0	0	6
Sugar and cash for spices for the Munshis of the Daftardar	0	3	0
To camelmen (of impressed camels) for mutton	0	2	0
To Umedali Malhi (who brought a sheep) for mutton	0	0	6
To Sumar, peon for mutton	0	0	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
To Umedali Malhi for mutton	0	0	6
One rope to Achar Kotar	0	1	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
To Bhaledino Kotar of Johi, 2 patis of Jowari and mutton	0	3	6
To Allahrakhio camelman for mutton	0	0	6
One new gunny bag for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector	0	13	0
Barley-one Kasa, and mutton for the butler of the Deputy Collector ..	0	7	0
One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar	0	2	6
To two camelmen of the Head Munshi to the Deputy Collector for one seer salt and mutton	0	2	3
To camelmen of other 3 Munshis of the Deputy Collector for ½ seer salt and mutton	0	2	0
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
2 ropes and 1 cubit of bafta cloth to Muhammad Malhi	0	5	9
One bottle Kerosine oil for the guest of Diwan Sahib	0	2	6
Vegetables and sugar-candy for the guest of Diwan Sahib	0	7	6
To Malhi of Johi for mutton	0	1	0
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	2	0
Fine flour 2 chatanks to Achar Kotar	0	0	9
One bottle Kerosine oil for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector	0	2	6
Ditto ditto ditto ditto	0	2	6
One bottle Kerosine oil for the Judicial Commissioner	0	2	6
To Murid camelman for mutton	0	1	0
To Murid camelman 4 chatanks salt	0	0	3
To peon of the Judicial Commissioner for mutton	0	0	6
Papar (curry-cakes of Dal) for the Munshis of Sessions Judge	0	1	0
To peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton	0	0	6
Spices, vegetables, etc., for the Munshi of the Sessions Judge	0	6	9
To Kisnomal, peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton	0	1	0
To the postman from Johi for mutton	0	0	3
Onions 1 seer for the Judicial Commissioner	0	2	0
Pulse (mung) for the peons of Judicial Commissioner	0	2	0
To Kishnomal, peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton	0	1	6
Ditto ditto ditto	0	2	0
Tobacco and sugar to Peroye, Jamadar	0	1	6
To Dino Kotar for mutton	0	3	3
One lota (earthen pot) to Achar Kotar	0	0	6
To Kishnomal, peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton	0	2	6
Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto	0	2	0
Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto	0	12	0
To peon of the Sessions Judge for fetching water	0	1	6
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables	0	2	0
Ditto ditto	0	2	0
Sugar 1 chatank to Ibrahim Naik	0	0	6
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables	0	2	0
Papars (curry-cakes of Dal) for Sessions Court	0	0	6
One basket for the Sessions Judge	0	2	3
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables	0	2	0
One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar	0	2	6
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables	0	2	0
Ditto ditto	0	2	0
Ditto ditto	0	2	0
To Imambaksh camelman for mutton	0	0	6
Sugar, vegetables and ulse for the Syce of the Commissioner in Sind ..	0	4	0
Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto ..	0	6	6
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables	0	1	3
Ditto ditto	0	2	0
Grain and fodder to the syce of the Commissioner in Sind	2	11	0
Gram 10 seers to the yce of the Commissioner in Sind	1	8	0
Salt and Kerosine oil to the syce of the Commissioner in Sind	0	4	3
To Achar Kotar for mutton	0	0	6
Ditto ditto	0	4	0
To Kishnomal, peon for mutton	0	2	0
One new gunny bag for Diwan Sahib	0	13	0
Barley 6 Patis for Diwan Sahib	0	9	6
One Kunari (a large earthen pot) for the cow of the Sessions Judge	0	1	3
To Kishnomal, peon for mutton	0	2	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Paddy 2 Toyas for the peons of Khairpur	0	10	6
Milk ditto ditto ditto	0	1	0
Milk ditto ditto ditto	0	1	9
Barley 2 Toyas and sugar for the peons of Khairpur	0	6	9
Salt ditto ditto ditto ditto	0	0	3
Sugar ditto ditto ditto ditto	0	0	6
Rope, one cubit bafta cloth and thread to Muhammad Malhi	0	3	9
Cash to Mohan servant	0	10	0
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables	0	1	0
Ditto ditto	0	3	0
To Ghulam Rasul camelman for mutton and salt	0	0	9
To Ismail Kotar of the Head Munshi for milk	0	1	6
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables and milk	0	3	0
One new gunny bag for Diwan Sahib	0	13	0
To Kishnomal, peon for vegetable and milk	0	3	0
Ditto ditto ditto	0	3	0
One bottle Kerosine oil for the Sessions Judge	0	3	6
To Kishnomal, peon vegetables and milk	0	3	0
Ditto ditto ditto	0	3	0
Ditto ditto ditto	0	3	0
Ditto ditto ditto	0	3	0
Paddy 2 Toyas for Diwan Sahib	0	10	6
One basket to keep geese in	0	4	0
To the peons of Mukhtiarkar of Samar for meals	0	2	6
For the meals of the guests of Head Munshi Kimatrai	0	8	0
One bottle Kerosine oil for Chaodi	0	3	0
For the meals of peon of the Deputy Collector	0	4	0
Khandha of the Munshis of the Deputy Collector from 2nd November to 9th November 1917	23	10	0
Khandha of the Head Munshi of the Deputy Collector from 2nd November to 9th November 1917..	11	1	7
Khandha of the Head Munshi of the Daftardar frem 2nd November to 9th November 1917	36	1	0
Khandha of Munshi Abdul Kadir Shah of the Daftardar from 2nd November to 9th November 1917	10	14	8
Khandha of Munshi Abdul Khalik of the Daftardar from 2nd November to 9th November 1917	6	13	3
Khandha of Munshi Jethanand and other Munshis of the Collector	12	12	9
Khandha of Munshi Khushiram of the Collector	13	8	0
Khandha of Munshi Chhangomal Serishtedar of the Collector	7	8	3
Khandha of Havaldar of the Collector	16	10	6
Khandha of Munshi Jethanand and other Munshis of the Collector	1	13	7
Khandha of Munshi Abdul Khalik	1	10	9
Khandha of the butler of the Collector	51	14	3
(in pencil) GRAND TOTAL ..	253	13	2

Account of Seumal Modi, from August 9 to 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

	Rs.	a.	p.
Three mats for the Deputy Collector	1	0	0
One Chilam for Chaodi to Pirano Kotar for Mian Abdullah	0	4	0
One packet Cigarettes and a match box for the Head Munshi	0	3	3
Khandha of Munshi Shah Nawaz of the Collector's Office	8	4	0
16 Tuwas (straw mats) for Diwan Sahib	1	8	0
One Chilam with Nargol given to Khudu Machhi as per chit of Mian Abdulah	0	9	6
Black cotton thread for Khan Sahib taken from Shiwan broker	0	12	0
Barley 2 Patis for the feed of spotted geese of Diwan Sahib	0	3	0
One cot to Lalbux, Daftardar's peon given by Head Munshi	2	8	0
Total ..	25	3	9

Account of Tuljomal Hindu, aerated water seller, from August 1917 *to July* 1918, *for the year* 1917-18, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

	Rs.	a.	p..
Soda, lemonade, ginger and tonic water supplied on the occasion of the Camp of the Collector as per chits	11	9	6
Empty bottles missing (in pencil)	20	0	0
Total ..	31	9	6

Account of Tharoomal, liquor-seller, from August 1917 *to July* 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

	Rs.	a.	p
Half bottle country liquor given to Dharmu servant of the Seristedar ..	0	13	0
One bottle country liquor for Mr. Khushiram, Head Munshi including the empty bottle	1	12	0
One bottle country liquor for Khanu servant of Diwan Sahib	1	12	0
One bottle country liquor for Melhu, servant of Mr. Khushiram ..	1	12	0
One bottle country liquor for Munshi Jethanand and other Munshis of the Collector	1	12	0
One bottle country liquor for the servant of the Daftardar	1	12	0
One bottle country liquor for Zamindars on 11th November 1917 ..	1	12	0
One bottle country liquor sent to Mukhtiarkar for the guests from Khairpur	1	14	0
One bottle country liquor for the Munshis of the Daftardar	1	12	0
One bottle country liquor for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector ..	1	12	0
Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto ..	1	12	0
Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto ..	1	12	0
One bottle of brandy as per chit of the Head Munshi	4	14	0
One bottle country liquor as per chit of the Head Munshi	1	12	0
Balance from last year 1916-17	5	10	0
Total up to February	31	13	0 (in pencil).

Account of Thakur Daryadinomal, cloth-seller, from August 1917 *to* 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

	Rs.	a.	p.	
For 6 bags, 10th November 1918 ..	12	0	0	one piece of *Bafta* for the butler of the Collector.
	1	8	0	sweets and pakoras for Munshi Jsardas, and other Munshis while going to Jobi.
	13	8	0	(in pencil).

(Sd.) Jawharmal, Tapadar, Dadu.

Account of Thakur Taromal Haberdasher, from August 1917 *to* 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

	Rs.	a.	p.
2 lanterns given to the butler at the camp of the Collector	4	4	0
4 chimneys ditto ditto ditto	0	11	0
Rope, twisted yarn given to the butler at the camp of the Collector ..	0	3	3
8 packets cigarettes scissors brand at the camp of Mondar given to the butler at the camp of the Collector	1	6	0
1 glass given to the butler at the camp of the Collector	0	6	0
3 glasses and a cotton rope,—one for Mr. Mirza	1	11	0
Tracing cloth for Taluka office	0	6	0
2 locks given to the butler at the camp of the Collector	0	11	0
(in pencil)	9	10	3

Account of Khatanmal, fruit-seller, from August 1917 *to* 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana, year* 1917-18.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Fruit for the Collector, camp Puranodero	6	4	0
Fruit for the Daftardar at Dadu	6	8	0
Fruit the Collector, camp Puranodero	14	2	0
Ditto Dadu	5	1	0
Ditto Mondar from Sitalmal	5	14	0
Fruit for the Munshis of the Daftardar at Dadu	3	10	0
Ditto Collector at Dadu	5	0	0
Fruit for the new Daftardar at Dadu	6	0	0
Fruit for the guests of the known person	5	1	0
Fruit for the Inspectress Girl's Schools	2	2	0
Red plantains for the Collector at Dadu	7	1	6
(in pencil)	66	11	6

Abstract of account of Imambaksh, peon (for fowls and eggs), from August 1917 *to* 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana, year* 1917-18.

	Rs.	a.	p.		Rs.	a.	p.
Outstanding balance of last year 1916-17	14	8	0	Given by Munshi Jawharmal in cash out of the pay of Tapadars	8	0	0
Fare and meals from Larkana and back	2	8	0	Ditto ditto ..	10	0	0
Fowls 18 in No. for the Camp of Collector	11	4	0	As per accompanying statement in Munshi Daulatram's hand.			
Eggs 26 dozen for the Camp of Collector	9	12	0				
Fowls 6 for the camp of the Judicial Commissioner and Sessions Judge	3	12	0				
Eggs 13 dozen and 10 for the Camp of the Judicial Commissioner and Sessions Judge	5	3	0				
Total up to February ..	46	15	0	(in pencil).			

Abstract of account of Achar, butcher, from August 1917 *to* 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana, year* 1917-18.

Srs.	P.	Ch.		Rs.	a.	p.		Rs.	a.	p.
33	1	0	of mutton for the Deputy Collector and his establishment	10	6	0	Given by Munshi Jawharmal out of the pay of Tapadars	36	8	0
Mds.	Srs.	Ch.								
3	0	3	of mutton camp of the Collector	37	12	0	Ditto ditto ..	11	10	0
1	6	2	of mutton for the Judicial Commissioner, Sessions Judge and the Deputy Collector and establishments	14	8	0				

Amount spent by Munshi Jawharmal.

	R.	a.	p.
5th January—			
Milk for the Deputy Collector	0	4	0
Butter 2 chattank	0	2	0
Fish	0	2	0
Fowl	0	8	0
Milk for Munshi	0	7	6
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	1	0
Cart of Nawab to the bungalow	0	4	0
1 cart of Lalu, for Deputy Collector's kit	0	4	0
1 buggy of Dino	0	4	0
Sweets to Sumar sweeper ..	1	0	0
6th January—			
Milk for the Deputy Collector	0	4	0
Butter	0	2	0
Fish	0	2	0
Milk for Munshis	0	7	6
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	3
Milk for Judicial Commissioner	0	6	0
Potatoes for Judicial Commissioner	0	2	0
Fish	0	4	0
2 carts of Safar for Judicial Commissioner	0	8	0
2 carts of Faizu for Judicial Commisioner	0	8	0
1 cart of Andal for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
3 carts of Khodo for Judicial Commissioner	0	12	0
Sumar Buggywala	0	4	0
Dino do.	0	4	0
Jasu do.	0	4	0
Urs do.	0	4	0
2 carts of fuel sent to bungalow	0	8	0
7th January—			
Milk for the Deputy Collector	0	4	0
Fish	0	3	0
Eggs	0	3	0
Butter	0	4	0
	9	8	3
Milk for Munshis	0	7	6
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	3
Milk for Judicial Commissioner	0	6	0
Milk for the establishment of Judicial Commissioner and Sessions Judge	1	1	6
One cart of Khodo which brought the luggage of Sessions Judge	0	4	0
One cart of Abu	0	4	0
One cart of Faizu	0	4	0

	Rs.	a.	p
7th January—contd.			
One cart of Urs for Sessions Judge	0	4	0
One cart of Dino	0	4	0
One cart of Abu	0	4	0
One cart of Safar which took fuel to the bungalow ..	0	4	0
Milk for Sessions Judge ..	0	4	0
Fish	0	2	6
8th January —			
Milk for the Deputy Collector	0	4	0
Butter	0	4	0
Fish	0	2	0
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	3
Milk for Munshis 9 seers ..	0	13	6
One cart of Lalu for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
One cart of Khodo for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
One cart of Andal for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
One cart of Tahir for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
One cart of Yakub for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
One cart of Jafar for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
One cart of Faizu for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
Total ..	7	9	6
One cart of Abu for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
One cart of Raban for Judicial Commissioner	0	4	0
Buggy of Urs	0	4	0
Milk for Sessions Judge ..	0	4	0
2 Fowls	1	4	0
Fish	0	4	0
Milk for Judicial Commissioner	0	2	0
Milk for Havaldar	0	2	0
Fish sent by Ismail to the Camp of the Collector at Khudabad	0	10	0
9th January—			
Milk for Munshis for tea ..	0	2	0
Milk for Deputy Collector ..	0	4	0
Fish	0	2	0
Butter	0	4	0
Milk for Hindu Munshis ..	0	9	0
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	3
10th January —			
Milk for Deputy Collector ..	0	4	0
Butter	0	1	6
Fish	0	2	0
Milk for Munshis	0	9	9
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	3	9
Milk for Hindu Munshis for tea	0	1	0
Fish for Munshis	0	1	6

	Rs.	a.	p.
11th January—			
Milk for Deputy Collector ..	0	4	0
Fish	0	2	0
Milk for Hindu Munshis ..	0	9	0
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	3
Total ..	7	6	0
12th January—			
Milk for Deputy Collector ..	0	5	0
Fish	0	3	0
Milk for Hindu Munshis ..	0	10	6
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	3
Butter for Sahib	0	4	0
Nargol (tubes for huka) for butler	0	2	6
Total ...	1	11	3
Total up to 12th January ...	26	3	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Camel hire granted by Mukhtiarkar for taking Judicial Commissioner for Shikar ..	1	0	0
Tanning skins to Kodumal ..	3	4	0
To Achar butler	18	2	0
To Jafar peon	2	0	0
To Muhammad Malhis.. ..	1	0	0
Servant of Diwan Sahib ..	1	13	0
Expenses of the Johi Mukhtiarkar	1	15	0
To Dino Manghanhar.. ..	0	4	0
To Lalu cartman, for cart taken by Mian Abdulah at night for Sessions Judge	0	4	0
Paid to 3 labourers from 5th January to 14th January 1918	15	0	0
Total ...	44	10	0
One at Deputy Collector's, bungalow, one for Hindu Munshi and one for Head Munshi			

Expenditure.

	Rs.	a.	p.
3rd January Fuel	3	8	0
4th do.	2	8	0
5th do.	5	0	0
6th January Fuel	4	0	0
7th do.	4	4	0
8th do.	5	0	0
9th do.	3	0	0
10th do.	2	12	0
11th do.	2	8	0
12th do.	2	8	0
13th do.	2	4	0
	37	4	0
14th do.	2	4	0
	39	8	0
Total ..	110	0	0
For Sessions Judge	5	8	0
Garlands	1	8	0
Tips	13	0	0
To Mian Abdulah	13	0	0
	33	0	0
Less bill	4	0	0
Balance	20	0	9
Total expenses ..	139	5	0

Receipts.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Kodumal	25	0	0
Hukumuldin	25	0	0
Pahlumal	15	0	0
Mahomed Parial	15	0	0
	80	0	0
Received from Head Munshi ..	25	0	0
	105	0	0
Daulatram	15	0	0
	120	0	0
Munshi Imambux	20	0	0
	140	0	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
13th January—			
Milk for Deputy Collector ..	0	4	0
Eggs 6	0	3	0
Milk for Munshis 6 seers ...	0	9	0
Milk 1½ seers, Head Munshi	0	2	9
Cooly hire for luggage of Head Munshi	0	2	0
14th January—			
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	9
Cart for luggage of Deputy Collector	0	4	0
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	3	6
15th January—			
Milk ½ a seer	0	1	0
2 Ropes for the Deputy Collector	0	2	6
One cart taking cots from bungalow to the Chavdi ..	0	4	0
	2	6	0
10th February—			
Fuel for Sessions Judge's peons	1	9	0
For fish to Mohan	1	4	0
do.	0	2	0
Buggies and carts	2	8	0
4 gunnybags—Mukhtiarkar...	1	12	0
Liquor, Deputy's Munshis ..	6	0	0
Sweatmeats, Deputy's Munshis	2	0	0
Dakhies (pots) Mukhtiarkar..	0	2	6
11th February—			
Fuel for (illegible)	2	10	0
12th February—			
Fuel for (illegible)	2	4	0
13th February—			
Fuel for (illegible)	2	10	0
14th February—			
Fuel for Sessions Judge ..	1	2	0
15th February—			
Jasu buggywala for Inspectress	0	4	0
Dino buggywala	0	4	0
To Mohan for Milk	1	0	0
3 Bullock-carts for Inspectress at night	0	15	0
One buggy of Jasu	0	6	0
3 buggies of Dino	0	12	0
One cart of cots and fuel ..	0	4	0
Chickens 4	1	4	0
Hens 8	4	8	0
	35	14	6
14th February—			
Milk for Inspectress ..	0	4	0
Eggs	0	3	0
Eggs one dozen for Sessions Judge	0	6	0
2 carts for Munshi Isardas ..	0	8	0
Hens and eggs for Sessions Judge, (through) Jurio Kotar	2	4	0
15th February—			
Milk for Inspectress ...	0	5	0
16th February—			
Eggs 6	0	3	0
Milk	0	5	0
Miscellaneous expenses ..	1	0	0
Tips to bhangis	1	0	0
Mian Abdulah	5	0	0
Munshi Muhammad Ismail as per order of Head Munshi	5	0	0
To Munshi Muhammad Bachal cart hire for Deputy Collector's soda water bottles	0	11	0
4 Hens for Sessions Judge ..	2	4	0
Fuel to the Havaldar, Sessions Judge	0	12	0
Ropes, halseh, grain-bag for horses and horse-brush ..	3	0	0
Eggs for Sessions Judge ..	0	4	0
Butter	0	4	0
1st February—			
For food to butler and peons at Dadu station	0	8	0
	59	15	0
Grand total ...	199	4	0
17th February—			
Milk for Madam (Inspectress Girl's Schools)	0	4	0
Eggs 6	0	3	0
A chicken	0	5	0
Milk for private servants ..	0	2	6
18th February—			
Milk for Madam (Inspectress)	0	4	0
Eggs 6	0	3	0
Chicken 1	0	5	0
Milk for private servants of Inspectress..	0	2	6
19th February —			
Milk for Madam (Inspectress)	0	4	0
Eggs 6	0	3	0
A chicken	0	5	0
Milk for private servants ..	0	2	6
Milk for Madam (Inspectress)	0	1	0
	202	0	6
21st February—			
Fuel for Sessions Judge ..	1	4	0
2 Hens	1	2	0
12 Eggs	0	6	0
23rd February—			
12 Eggs	0	6	0
	205	2	6
Paper, note papers and envelopes for the Mukhtiaarkar to Munshi Muhammad Ismail	1	10	0
Grand total ..	206	12	6

From 13th October.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Received from Head Munshi ..	80	0	0
Sirumal	10	0	0
Kodumal	10	0	0
Jagirdar	15	0	0
Ahmed Malakani	10	0	0
Kodumal	10	0	0
Jindalshah	5	0	0
	140	0	0

Received from Tapadars.

	Rs.	a.	p.
For meals of guests	0	6	1
Given to Jafar, peon	4	5	0
Sugar-candy for Munshis ..	2	0	0
Fare to Munshi Shamuldin to Radhan and back	1	0	0
To butcher	22	8	0
Fish for Hindu Munshis ..	0	2	9
To Nabibaksh Camelman ..	0	4	0
To Murid Camelman	0	6	0
To Jetho Modis..	100	0	0
To Khodo and Lilo cartmen, for luggage of Deputy Collector's Munshis..	0	8	0
4 buggies of Dino and Sumar for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector	1	0	0
3 buggies for Mukhtiarkar ..	0	12	0
One wooden box for Head Munshi of the Deputy Collector..	1	0	0
To Mewo, peon for fowls and eggs	8	0	0
Netting of cots	2	0	0
Cost of pegs to carpenter ..	0	10	0
Prawns for the Munshis of the Collector	0	4	6
Prawns 1 seer for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector ..	0	4	0
(in pencil)	145	6	4

	Rs.	a.	p.
To Munshi Shamsuddin to go to Larkana	4	0	0
Hire of cot to Abdul Hamid ..	0	8	0
Cigarettes to the butler of the Collector and 6 match boxes at the station	1	0	0
Sweats 4 chatanks to Khair Muhammad Havildar ..	0	3	0
2 bottles soda (including bottles) to the butler	0	15	0
Hire of 4 cots	0	2	0
Milk for Collector	0	4	0
6 Eggs	0	3	0
1 Fowl	0	10	0
Tip to Khair Muhammad as ordered .. : ..	2	0	0
Fruit for Collector	6	4	0
Fuel	0	3	0
Sugar	0	1	0
28th October—Night.			
For Munshi of the Daftardar, buggy of Dino Charan for 3 trips	0	12	0
2 carts for luggage	0	8	0
29th October—			
Mutton for Hindu Munshis 1 seer	0	5	0
Mutton for Abdul Kadir Shah	0	2	6
Milk for Munshis	0	7	0
30th October—			
Mutton for Hindu Munshis ..	0	5	0
Mutton for Abdul Kadir Shah	0	2	6
(in pencil)	18	15	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Fish for the Head Munshi of the Deputy Collector	0	4	6
2 Chilams with Nargol and 2 Phuls (Head of Huqa) ..	1	7	0
1 chilam with Nargol and 1 Phul (Head of Huqa) to Melhu Servant	0	11	6
5th November—			
Butter for Serishtedar and Head Munshis of the Colector	0	4	0
Milk for Serishtedar and Head unshi of the Collector ..	0	4	0
6th November—			
Butter for Head Munshi of the Collector	0	2	0
Milk for Head Munshi ..	0	2	0
Milk for Serishtedar and Munshi	1	2	0
4 Tickets Inter class 1 for Serishtedar, 1 for servant and 2 for Kotars to Phulji station	0	11	3
Kotar and labourer for meals	0	2	0
Fare to Dino Kotar and labourer to Phulji station ..	0	5	0
Foreign liquor	39	0	0
Fare to Dino Kotar to Sehwan and back	1	0	0
3 Fish, 2 for Collector and 1 for Mr. Isardas	2	0	0
(in pencil)	47	7	3

	Rs.	a.	p.
Miscellaneous expenses ..	0	11	0
Knife, Munshi Abdul Khalik ..	0	1	0
Hire of 3 camels to Allahdin, Mastoi for carriage of bags from Naulakh to Puranodero	2	4	0
To Dostmahomed labourer for having served the Munshi of the Deputy Collector ..	1	5	0
To Dost Mahomed, labourer for having served the Munshi of the Collector	1	5	0
Wages to Jumo Khoro from 29th October to 1st November for looking after Musafirkhana	2	0	0
2 Fish sent to Puranodero on 8th November	1	6	0
Milk on 5th	2	4	0
Milk on 6th	2	4	0
Milk on 7th	2	2	0
To Mian Abdullah for fruit and fare to and from Hyderabad	20	0	0
2 Fish	1	14	0
Tip to Kashi, servant	15	0	0
(in pencil)	52	8	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
For tip and daily charges to Bansi, peon	3	9	0
Hayat, peon for a Huqa ..	0	5	0
Tip for butler to Imambux, peon	100	0	0
Tips to the servants of the Munshis of the Deputy Collector	4	0	0
For daily charges to Ibrahim Naik	2	12	0
For daily charges to Kauro, peon	2	4	0
For daily charges to Muhammad Khan, peon	2	8	0
For daily charges to Khairo ..	2	8	0
Dino servant for repairs to box	0	10	3
Tip to the servant of Munshi Abdul Kadirshah	2	0	0
Sweets at the Camp of Collector at Mondar	2	0	0
Camel hire to Usman for taking Mr. Isardas to 'Naushahro including ferry toll	3	8	0
To sweeper for cleaning the otak of Munshi Abdulah	0	10	0
To Halima for fetching water ..	0	10	0
Milk for Head Munshi of the Collector ..	0	6	0
To Ellias, peon for sweets ..	0	4	0
(in pencil)	127	14	3

	Rs.	a.	p.
Food to the Camelman of Ali Murad Shah	0	4	0
To Bacho Mirbabar	0	4	0
To Dino, peon	0	1	0
To Abdulah, beldar in lieu of Ghee	0	1	0
Cleaning charges of privy of the Munshis of the Deputy Collector	0	4	0
Miscellaneous	0	4	0
Camel hire of one camel to Rasulbux Malhi for bringing pegs from Naulakh Huri ..	0	9	0
9 loaves	1	2	0
Hire of a camel to Bahawal, camelman for taking the Syce of the Collector to Mondar and back	1	0	0
12th November 1917—			
Chilam, complete and tobacco	0	9	6
Milk for the Butler	0	6	0
Milk for Mr. Shah Nawaz ..	0	1	9
14th November—			
Milk for Collector	0	14	0
Butter for Collector ..	0	4	0
4 loaves	0	8	0
Repairing charges of a teapoy to carpenter	0	6	0
To Lahori for lighting lamps ..	1	4	0
To butler for tips for his men ..	45	0	0
(in pencil)	53	2	3

	Rs.	a.	p
To Achar, butler	10	0	0
15th November—			
Milk for Collector	0	12	0
Butter ½ seer	0	8	0
Fish	0	5	0
Butter for Mr. Shah Nawaz ..	0	4	0
14th November—			
Milk for establishment ..	1	8	0
15th November—			
Milk for establishment ..	1	12	3
Paper	0	1	0
Milk	0	1	0
Fruit for Deputy Collector ..	0	4	0
To Haso for garlands for Daftardar	0	8	0
To Haso on account ..	4	0	0
To Sumar, buggywala	1	0	0
Tips to the servant of the Munshis of the Daftardar ..	5	0	0
Fish	0	14	0
Fish sent to Mondar	0	9	0
One fish for Havaldar	0	9	0
For daily charges to butler and private servants	45	0	0
To Jurio Kotar for butler ..	2	0	0
(in pencil)	74	15	3

	Rs.	a.	p.
Repairing charges of girth ..	0	4	0
Fish to Mohan	0	9	6
Vegetables, sweets, etc. ..	0	8	3
Tip to Jafar	1	0	0
Washing charges of clothes ..	0	3	6
To Dharmu, servant	0	5	0
Wages to Jaro, from 1st to 10th	5	0	0
Fare and freight for one box to Mian Abdulah	1	12	0
For daily charges to Hayat, peon, 8th and 9th December	0	7	0
Daily allowance to the Punjabi peon of Daftardar	0	7	0
Tips to bhangis	2	0	0
Tip to Jafar	1	4	0
Fare to postman to Johi ..	1	0	0
To Muhabali, camelman ..	0	6	0
To Khair Muhammad, Naik including (illegible) on 11th December	1	8	0
(in pencil)	16	10	3

	Rs.	a.	p.
Expenses on the meals of Diwan Lalchand	1	0	0
16th November, Milk	2	10	0
17th November, Milk	2	10	0
18th November, Milk	2	10	0
19th November, Milk	3	12	0
20th November, Milk	3	12	0
Loaves	3	4	0
Total expenses incurred by Ismail Kotar, from 28th October to 21st November ..	30	2	0
Fuel for Collector, Deputy Collector and other officers from October to December ..	78	14	0
2 red cots	5	8	0
Ropes for netting cots ..	3	0	0
Netting charges	1	12	0
Making charges of cots ..	1	12	0
Washing charges of clothes ..	0	9	6
Poles of cots	4	2	0
One wooden box, Mukhtiarkar, from Taro Hindi	3	0	0
(in pencil)	148	5	6

	Rs.	a.	p.
To Sathi Sarhyo on account of rent for Collector's Munshis	2	12	0
Tuwas for landis from Bhagat Hiro	3	12	0
Candles 1 doz.	0	5	0
Expenses incurred by Munshi Abdul Hamid	2	0	0
To Munshi Abdulah for Rasai of Sessions Judge	13	0	0
Fruit for Judicial Commissioner	5	8	0
Garlands for Judicial Commissioner	1	8	0
Tips for Judicial Commissioner	11	0	0
For daily charges of—			
Lalbux, peon	5	0	0
Hayat, peon	2	3	0
Rasulbux, peon	3	2	0
Mosan, peon	1	2	0
Murli, peon	2	13	0
Sumar, peon	3	9	0
Abdul Rahim, peon ..	2	3	0
Tips—			
Murli	2	0	0
Rasulbux	2	0	0
Sumar	2	0	0
Servant of Abdul Khalik ..	2	0	0
(in pencil)	67	13	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Havaldar	22	0	0
Melhu, servant	8	5	0
Servant of Girdharlal	4	8	0
Servant of Serishtedar ..	5	0	0
Lalbux	2	0	0
Hayat	2	0	0
Servant of Daftardar	19	0	0
To Head Munshi	0	8	0
To Abdul Khalik for (illegible)	0	8	0
Wages to Bakar for 12 days ..	6	0	0
Dosu labourer	1	8	0
Fakiro labourer	0	8	0
To Jasu buggywala on account 26th February—	2	0	0
3 Pala fish for Sessions Judge	1	14	0
Fare to Imambux to Mehar & back (twice) ..	2	2	0
Fare upto Bubak to Abdulah for taking a letter of the Deputy Collector	1	0	0
To Rihan Kotar for grain of horse at Chana camp ..	1	0	0
Fowls for Sessions Judge ..	2	5	0
(in pencil)	82	2	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Fuel	1	4	0
Eggs 24	0	12	0
Milk	0	6	6
Miscellaneous expenses ...	2	5	0
27th November—			
One carriage hire for Deputy Collector up to station ..	0	8	0
Buggy and cart for Diwan Jessaram	0	8	0
List of Kandha of Modi ...	40	0	0
	45	11	6
Secret expenses	6	8	0
	52	3	6
Total ...	857	6	7

	Rs.	a.	p.
Expenses incurred by Mohan on the occasion of Collector's camp	21	9	0
Prial tailor for tent-bags ...	1	8	0
Samo carpenter including wages, iron and wood	4	2	0
Husain blacksmith, for repair of Collector's and Dpeuty Collector's things	10	0	0
Total ..	894	9	7
To Haso for garlands for Daftardar	0	8	0
	895	1	1

Account of buggies, from August 1917 to July 1918 for the year 1917-18 quarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Takhtmal to Dadu station 11 buggies	2	12	0	Grain for horses given to Jasumal and Takhtmal buggy-walas on 18th November 1917 taken from Jethomal ..	1	0
Takhtmal to Marakhpur bund 1 buggy	0	6	0			
Dino Charan to Dadu station 15 buggies (for Mukhtiarkar)	3	12	0			
Dino Charan to Dadu station 25 buggies (for Collector) ..	6	4	0			
Dino Charan to Dadu station 7 buggiss (for Deputy Collector)	1	12	0			
Dino Charan to Dadu station 5 buggies (for miscellaneous work)	1	4	0			
Dino Charan to Dadu station 9 buggies (at the time of constructing bund)	2	4	0			
Dino Charan from Dadu to Son Miani and back 7 buggies (for Collector and Daftardar)	5	4	0			
Dino Charan from Dadu to Puranodero 1 buggy	2	4	0			
Dino Charan from Dadu to Mondar 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Dino Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy ..	0	4	0			
Urs from Dadu to Mondar and back 1 buggy	3	0	0			
Urs from Dadu to Khudabad 2 buggies	3	0	0			
Alahadad from Dadu to Puranodero 1 buggy	2	4	0			
Jassumal to Dadu station 21 buggies	5	4	0			
Jassumal from Mondar to Dadu 2 buggies	3	0	0			
Jassumal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Hassomal to Dadu station 20 buggies	5	0	0			
Hassomal to Marakhpur bund and back 1 buggy	0	12	0			
Hassomal from Puranodero to Mondar 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Hassomal from Mondar to Dadu 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Hassomal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Nenumal to Dadu station ..	1	8	0			
Nenumal from Puranodero to Mondar 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Nenumal from Mondar to Dadu 1 buggy	1	8	0			
Nenumal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy	1	8	0			
	63	6	0 (in pencil)			

	Rs.	a.	p.
Dino Charan to Dadu station 1 buggy (for Deputy Collector) on 5th January 1918	0	4	0
For Judicial Commissioner of Sind—			
Sumar to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Jasumal to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Lalu to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
For Sessions Judge—			
Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
For Judicial Commissioner—			
Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Haso to Dadu station 3 buggies	1	0	0
For Inspectress Girls' Schools—			
Jasumal to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Dino and Jasumal to Dadu station 4 buggies	1	2	0
Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy	0	4	0
Jasumal to Dadu station for Diwan Sahib on the occasion of Inspectress Girls' Schools' Visit	0	8	0

Account of camelmen, from August 1917 to 1918, *Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.*

	Rs.	a.	p
3rd December 1917 when the Collector's establishment came from Johi—			
Muhabali to Marakhpur bund 1 camel	0	10	0
Maularakhio to Marakhpur bund 1 camel	0	10	0
Miral to Marakhpur bund 1 camel	0	10	0
Usman to Marakhpur bund 1 camel	0	10	0
Allahrakhio to Marakhpur bund 1 camel	0	10	0
11th December 1917.			
Usman to Marakhpur bund 1 camel (twice for return journey also) ..	1	8	0
Mahabali . ditto ditto ditto ditto ..	1	8	0
Mahabali to Head Munshi Dadu for inspection for the purpose of Mafi of crops of Dadu Tapa. (Twice)	1	8	0
Usman to Head Munshi Dadu for inspection for the purpose of Mafi of crops of Dadu Tapa. (Once)	0	12	0
Muhabali taking the Sessions Judge as far as Son Miani for Shikar ..	0	8	0
Muhabali taking the Deputy Collector as far as the ferry	0	8	0
Usman ditto ditto ditto	0	8	0
Rasulbux Pind taking the Mukhtiarkar up to the bund for fixing the compensation	0	8	0
(in pencil)	10	14	0

Account of bullock-carts from August 1917 to July 1918 for the year 1917-18, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Abu Charan from Dadu to station 12 carts	3	0	0
Abu Charan from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Abu charan from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart	0	12	0
Abu Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts	1	8	0
Raban, 5 carts to Dadu station	1	4	0
Raban, from Mondar to Dado 2 carts	1	8	0
Raban from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Raban from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts	1	8	0
Nawab to Dadu station 10 carts	2	8	0
Nawab from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts	1	8	0
Nawab from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts	1	8	0
Nawab from Dadu to Son Miani 1 cart	0	6	0
Lalu to Dadu station 9 carts	2	4	0
Lalu from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart	1	4	0
Lalu from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Lalu from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart	0	12	0
Lalu from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart	0	12	0
Andal to Dadu station 8 carts	2	0	0
Andal from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart	1	4	0
Andal from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Andal from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart	0	12	0
Andal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart	0	12	0
Tahir to Dadu station 5 carts	1	4	0
Tahir from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart	1	4	0
Tahir from Puranodero to Mondar 2 carts	1	8	0
Tahir from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts	1	8	0
Tahir from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts	1	8	0
Safar to Dadu station 3 carts	0	12	0
Safar from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart	1	4	0
Safar from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart..	0	12	0
Safar from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts	1	8	0
Khado to Dadu station 18 carts	4	8	0
Khado from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart	1	4	0
Khado from Puranodero to Mondar 2 carts	1	8	0
Khado from Dadu to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Khado from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart	0	12	0
Yakub to Dadu station 2 carts	0	8	0
Yakub from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Yakub from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts	1	8	0
Yakub from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts	1	8	0
Shewakmal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart	0	12	0
(in pencil)	53	3	0
Faizu Charan to Dadu station 7 carts	1	12	0
Faizu Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart	0	12	0
Faizu Charan from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart	1	4	0
Faizu from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Faizu Charan from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart	0	12	0
Hashim Charan to Dadu station 20 carts	5	0	0
Hashim Charan from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart	0	12	0
Hashim Charan from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart	0	12	0
Hashim Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart	0	12	0
For Sessions Judge—			
Lalu to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
For Deputy Collector—			
Nawab to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Lalu to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
For Judicial Commissioner of Sind—			
Safar to Dadu station 2 carts	0	8	0
Faizu to Dadu station 2 carts	0	8	0
Andal to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Khado to Dadu station 3 carts	0	12	0
For taking fuel to the bungalow 2 carts	0	8	0
For Sessions Judge of Larkana—			
Khado to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Abu to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Faizu to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Alin to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Safar for taking fuel to the bungalow 1 cart	0	4	0
For Judicial Commissioner of Sind—			
Khado to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Andal to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Tahir to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Yakub to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Safar to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Faizu to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Alin to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Rand to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Khado to Dadu station 6 carts	1	8	0
For Inspectress of Girls' Schools—			
Faizu and others to Dadu station and to bungalow 7 carts	1	12	0
For Mr. Isardas—			
Khado to Dadu station 2 carts	0	8	0
For Deputy Collector's kit—			
Khado to Dadu station 1 cart	0	4	0
Lalu for bringing cots from the bungalow 1 cart	0	4	0

Details of payments of Tapa Mondar taluka Dadu for 1917-18.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Balance of last year due from general account	6	0	0
From pay	50	0	0
Khanda of the Collector	131	1	9
Fare to Kotar to take post of the Daftardar to Sehwan	1	0	0
A phial, fine flour, etc., to Mirza	1	0	0
Fruit, for Judicial Commissioner	7	0	0
Fruit for Sessions Judge	5	0	0
	201	1	9

23rd February 1918. (Sd.) Bhojraj, Tapedar, Mondar

Contribution by Tapedars

Name of Tapa.	August 1917.	September 1917.	October 1917.	November 1917.	December 1917.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. a p.
Munshi Jawharmal, Tapadar, Dadu	20 0 0	(Erased in pencil).		..	..	..
Munshi Ali Muhammad, Tapadar, Marakhpur ..	20 0 0	35 0 0	25 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	120
Munshi Punhukhan, Tapadar, Noraja	20 0 0	30 0 0	20 0 0	..	..	70
Munshi Abdul Hamid, Tapadar, Naulakh ..	10 0 0 to carpenters (pencil).	35 0 0	25 0 0 Munshi Murijmal	25 0 0 Munshi Murijmal	25 0 0 Munshi Murijmal	45 (all in pencil)
Munshi Muhammad Khan, Tapadar, Badani ..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Munshi Marumal Tapadar, Korpur	10 12 0	30 0 0	25 0 0 Munshi Murijmal	25 0 0 Munshi Murijmal	.. (These 2 pencil)	entries in
Munshi Menghraj, Tapadar, Bakhrai	20 0 0	35 0 0	..	..	..	55
Munshi Daulatram, Tapadar, Sal	10 0 0	30 0 0	25 0 0	15 0 0	20 0 0	100
Munshi Bhojo ial, Tapadar, Mondar	20 0 0	30 0 0	..	..	..	50
Munshi Muhammad Parial, Tapadar, Makhdum Sahib	20 0 0	35 0 0	..	15 0 0	15 0	85
Munshi Kodumal, Tapadar, Puranodero	20 0 0	30 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	..	75
Recived from Bachomal ..	10 0 0	(pencil).	Munshi Murijmal	(Name in pencil).		
Munshi Imambaksh, Tapadar, Rapa	..	30 0 0	20 0 0	25 0 0	20 0 0	95
Munshi Bhojraj, Tapadar, Jong	10 0 0	(Erased in pencil).		..	20 0 0	30
Munshi Din Muhammad, Tapadar, Jabriji	..	..	..	..	..	..
Munshi Pahlumal, Tapadar, Patt	..	35 0 0	..	15 0 0	..	50
Munshi Hukumaldin, Tapadar, Sita	10 0 0 Sher Alisha h (pencil).	..	..	25 0 0	20 0 0	55
						870
					got from zamindar	140
						1,010 (all entries in pencil in this colmn).

COPY OF LETTER NO. OF THE 672 29TH APRIL 1918.

FROM

E. H. WATERFIELD, ESQ., I. C. S., ACTING DISTRICT JUDGE, LARKANA, TO THE CHAIRMAN, RASAI COMMITTEE.

As requested by you, I have the honour to send you the following statement about my camp at Dadu.

2. I was at Dadu from January 7th till February 26th. I moved my Court there owing to a serious outbreak of plague in Larkana, which continued till the middle of March. It was obviously undesirable to hold Court in an infected locality, which might result in parties and witnesses carrying the infection back to their villages. Dadu was the most suitable place in the district for holding Court, as it was central, on the railway and free from plague. My long stay there was in the public interest. Plague continued in Larkana till the middle of March, and it would have caused great inconvenience to the public, as well as expense to Government, if I had moved from one place to another, especially as for about a month of my stay I was engaged in hearing a big forgery case in which the parties, witnesses, and pleaders would have found great difficulty in finding accommodation had I moved to Sehwan or Mehar, the only other places outside Larkana where I am allowed to hold Sessions. After the hearing of the forgery case I moved my camp to Mehar for the annual inspection.

3. I took six private servants, and my official establishment consisted of ten clerks and 9 patawalas. I had my two office tents, one for the Court, and the other for the office. I resided either in the District or in the P. W. D. bungalow, moving from one to the other to suit the convenience of other officers. The servants and patawalas lived in the bungalow outhouses. The clerks lived at the Musafarkhana, with the exception of the Seristedar, who was lent a private house by a friend.

4. All the members of the official establishment obtained their supplies direct from the bazaar and not through the tapedar. The clerks living at the Musafarkhana have kept accounts, which can be produced if necessary. My private servants also obtained their supplies direct from the bazaar, with the exception of certain items obtained by the butler through the tapedar, the receipt for which is attached. I slightly increased their wages to compensate them for the extra expense of living away from Larkana.

5. My own supplies were partly obtained through the tapedar for which bills are attached. As the supplies provided by him were not satisfactory, *e.g.*, bad fish was sent my butler purchased afterwards direct from the bazaar. I purchased a certain quantity, of fowls and eggs, but my requirements were lessened by my taking my own fowls with me from Larkana. Vegetables were supplied to me free from the Local Fund Garden. I paid for milk for the first twelve days. Afterwards a local zemindar lent me a cow. I paid for firewood for the first twelve days, and afterwards it was supplied free by the P. W. D.

6. It is impossible to estimate even roughly the daily cost of supplies obtained by my clerks, my servants, and myself, but I attach all the tapedar's bills which were paid by me. If it is considered necessary, I can send one of the clerks, who will be able to produce their messing accounts and answer any further questions.

SUMMARY.

Tapedar's bills.

	Rs.	A.	P.
7th to 18th January 1918	10	6	0
Ditto	8	3	0
18th January to 2nd February 1918	9	10	10
2nd to 26th February 1918..	9	6	0
Ditto	10	10	9
Carts	2	0	0
	50	3	9
H. H.'s Bazaar expenses in cash for January 1918	28	3	0
H. H.'s Bazaar expenses in cash for February 1918	27	4	0
	55	7	0
	105	10	9

Bill of the articles supplied to the Sessions Judge, Larkana from the 7th to 18th January 1918.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Fuel	6	14	0
Milk 16 seers at 2 annas a seer	2	0	0
6 Bullock carts from P. W. D. Bungalow to District Bungalow at 4 annas each	1	8	0
	10	6	0

Bill of the articles supplied to the Sessions Judge, Larkana from 7th to 18th January 1918.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Chickens 11 at annas 6 a chicken	4	2	0
Chickens 5 at annas 4 a chicken	1	4	0
Eggs 90 at 6 pies each	2	13	0
	8	3	0

From 18th January to 2nd February 1918.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Fowls 17 at 6 annas each	6	6	0
Chickens 4 at 4 annas each	1	0	0
6 doz. eggs at 6 annas a doz.	2	4	0
Total	9	10	0

From 2nd to 26th February 1918.

	Rs.	A.	P.
13 cocks	4	14	0
7 chickens	1	12	0
6 doz. eggs	2	4	0
1 Hen	0	8	0
	9	6	0

From 2nd to 26th February 1918.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Sugar	1	0	0
Kerosine	5	4	0
Rice	2	0	0
Ghee	1	4	0
Earthen pot	0	0	9
Cocoanut	0	2	0
Flour	1	0	0
	10	10	9

From 18th January to 2nd February 1918.

		Rs.	A.	P.
Supplied to Butler.	1 tin kerosine	3	14	0
	5 seers wheat	0	15	0
	1 seer sugar	0	8	0
	4 seers rice	1	0	0
	Tinning of utensils	0	6	0
	Total	6	11	0

Bill of bullock carts.

		Rs.	A.
13th Feb.	5 carts	1	4	0
14th February	Station to Bungalow, 1 cart	0	4	0
20th February	P. W. Bungalow to District Bungalow, 2 carts	0	8	0
		2	0	0

Part IV.

Evidence recorded by the Committee at Hyderabad for the Hyderabad District. Pages 1 to 223.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HEY.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. N. H. Hey, Esq.

2. Appointment. — 2. Acting Collector, Hyderabad.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Hyderabad.

4. Length of service. — 4. 11 years, 5 months.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. (a) Assistant Collector in Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana districts, from December 1906 to July 1909.

(b) Assistant Collector in Larkana district from January 1910 to July 1911 inclusive.

(c) Assistant Collector in Nawabshah district, December 1916 to July 1917 inclusive; Acting Collector, Sukkur, August and part of September 1917; Assistant Collector and Settlement Officer in Sukkur, September 1917 to March 1918; then Acting Collector, Hyderabad.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. Hyderabad district.

7. What is the period of your tour? — 7. Roughly November to April inclusive.

8. What private servants accompany you on tour? — 8. Butler, cook, chokra, dhobi, sweeper, bhisti and two syces.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? — 9. (a) Collector's establishment: 3 clerks, 5 peons, 2 khalasis.

(b) Daftardar's establishment: 4 clerks, 3 peons.

10. What supplies do you and your servants & your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? — 10. (a) I take all wines and liquors, tinned goods and dry stores, also flour and sugar are taken out and supplies of them renewed either by order from headquarter or by purchase in some market town. Grain for my horses I take round with me, fodder I buy locally.

(b) One's servants in India are paid wages to cover the cost of feeding themselves, one does not feed them as part of the contract like in England, so I do not know what supplies they take with them beyond their cooking pots and some flour and sugar. As for my official establishment it is no part of my duties to be caterer or do their marketing for them and I cannot say.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 11. What I need are the things that go down in an ordinary bazar bill in headquarters, e.g., fish, flesh, milk, eggs and fresh vegetables when procurable, my servants want chiefly ata, milk and ghee, so too the peons; the clerks cater for themselves, but include fish, flesh, more or less, in their diet.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? — 12. I take everything I want for my own use, viz., beds, tables, chairs, carpets, mirrors, bathroom fittings, etc.; office furniture consists of writing tables, chairs and bookstands.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars, or other furniture at your various camps? — 13. My own requirements are nothing except occasionally a big earthen pot or matka in the hot weather to cool drinks in. Bhistis' buckets or mussacks, stable buckets, basins for the servants to wash up dishes in, etc., etc., I provide myself and carry round with me.

The servants and office establishment I understand want a few water jars, which being too fragile cannot very well be carried round, and usually borrow cots; no other furniture is wanted.

14. What tents do you take on tour? — 14. I take two private tents (a big living one and a small sleeping one), a cook-house tent and 5 or 6 rowtis for my servants and peons, besides which there is the big office tent for the clerks. The daftardar has his own office and sleeping tents and rowti or two for his servants and peons.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? — 15. My servants' and peons live in the rowtis I take round, or in the quarters attached to P. W. D. and district bungalows when camped in such. The clerks are supposed to have private rowtis and some of them actually do, but when they can manage they prefer to stay in a dera or dharamsala or in a private otak lent to them.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?

16. My horses are stabled in the stalls provided at touring bungalows or in any spare stalls that can be conveniently borrowed near the camp; a kacha landhi is put up where no such accommodation is available.

17. What records do you take on tour?

17. 1 year's judicial record, stationery and typewriter, books for reference.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?

18. It is held in the office tent provided by Government or in the office attached (if any) to a touring bungalow.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?

19. Some 10 or 15 men to pitch my and the office tents on arrival and again the same number to strike them on departure. If the daftardar accompanies, a few more may be wanted to pitch and strike his tents, etc.

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?

20. They vary, but all are kacha and more or less bad outside Hyderabad city and cantonment.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?

21. District local board and taluka local board roads repaired partly by contracts given out for certain lengths and partly by beldars, malis, and working parties of labourers engaged by the month or day.

22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?

22. I have never required any special repairs to be made for my camps, but I have arranged such for the Commissioner's camps.

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?

23. Camels, engaged by the month at headquarters, for the whole tour.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?

24. When camped on or near the railway a peon or kotar brings it out from Hyderabad, when far away it is sent to the mukhtiarkar of the taluka in which the camp is, who sends it on by a kotar or peon.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. The only fixed camping places are (1) taluka headquarter, and (2) places where there are touring bungalows, P. W. D. or district; elsewhere tents are pitched wherever there is a convenient piece of ground and the camps made to suit inspection work subject to the possibility of arranging supplies, etc.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. There are a few Government camping grounds and they are looked after by the local fund beldars and malis.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. All the assigned camping grounds are, and camps elsewhere are chosen, so far as is possible, with a view to such convenience.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. None to the camping grounds, a few of the P. W. D. bungalows have them.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. Touring bungalows are at Matli, Mile No. 32 Jamrao, Tando Bago, Pangrio, Khairpur, Rajo Khanani, Tando Mahomed Khan, Katiar, Pir-jo-Goth, Kario Ganwhar, Khorwa, Dadu, Tando Ghulam Haider, Bhudka Takar, Badin, Sirani, Kadhan, Talhar, Miani Forest, Tando Kaiser, Tando Allahyar, Chambar, Jhando Mari, Hala, Matiari, Khebar, Saidabad, and Uderolal railway station.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. A chowkidar; one or more malis, if there is a garden attached.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. It means purveyance.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. Roughly about Rs. 2 worth of bazaar supplies (see question 11), plus 10 annas to a rupee (according to price), fodder for 2 horses.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. Cannot say, see answer No. 11 above.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. They differ in different places, milk, fodder and firewood are generally cheaper than in headquarters, for other supplies I pay much the same rates

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. No.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. For myself, see question 32 above; for servants and peons, 3 or 4 annas a head; for clerks, I cannot say (see question 11 above).

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Under the rules of 1914, nominally the rasai contractor, actually his kamdar or one of his men gets in the supplies; milk, fowls and eggs are got from haris or maldars; fodder from haris or khatedars; other supplies from the local bania in the bazaar.

38. How are they paid for?

38. A bill is given me at the end of the camp for my own supplies by the rasai contractor or his kamdar, which I pay personally. I do my best to prevent my servants or peons running up accounts at all and to insist on cash payments for what they get. Over the clerks and munshis—who run their own show—I have naturally less control, but make inquiries.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. Only the personal inquiries I make from the modi wherever available and villagers as to whether they have been paid or have any complaints.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. My own daily charges being practically the same as my bazaar bill in headquarter (where obviously my servants cannot cheat anyone but their master), plus a reasonable charge for fodder, always equal or exceed the cost according to local rates so far as I can ascertain them. For my servants I inquire and am always told things have been paid for daily as ordered (reasonable quantities and rates quoted), but I cannot swear to the invariable truth of the answers I get. As for the office the modi (banias) or the rasai contractor as regards milk, etc., bear witness to payments and in some cases show me receipts or books of payment at current rates, but I cannot really tell whether those payments are genuine or have been handed back again, or whether they have had quantities in excess of those shown.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. Any excess will be ultimately borne for the most part by the haris, as zamindars collect milk, fowls, eggs, goats or fodder from their haris or from petty khatedars in their raj and it is to say the least highly doubtful whether they pay for them, or if they do they recoup themselves by a levy on all their tenantry and raj under the name of deh kharch. Banias almost always see to it that they get paid by some one, but if the some one is the zamindar, he debits it to deh kharch as above; if the tapedar, he pays it out of lapo or, if he can, out of a special local levy.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. There is, so far as I know, seldom, if ever, a rasai fund maintained by tapedars, though the latter may and do at times make local levies in the name of rasai to meet exactions of munshis and others and will always contrive, if possible, to collect 2 rupees for everyone they have to pay out.

The so-called rasai fund maintained at taluka headquarter is not primarily meant for rasai at all in the sense of supplying provisions cheap to an officer or gratis to his servants, though it may be drawn on for that purpose, if, say, the Commissioner camps in a taluka. Its real object is to meet the much more onerous and important (from the taluka office's point of view) exactions of the various inspecting offices in the shape of annuities or douceur often running into very substantial figures, besides entertaining liberally the heads and members of such inspecting offices (N. A. C. and his staff, daftardar and his staff, head munshi and his staff, etc., as the case may be) during their stay at taluka headquarter.

Mukhtiarkars and taluka head munshis (and the corresponding officials in the departments) are, as a rule, much more afraid of these inspecting offices and of the clerical heads of them than they are of the sahib himself. The former are in the know and will unearth and bring to notice all their irregularities, if not made khush; also while they are pretty sure the sahib will do nothing unless he has proof of real default on their part, they are convinced that the sahib's office will

stick at nothing to get them into trouble justly or otherwise, if not given what they want. Also sahibs come and sahibs go (in these days of quick transfers they come and go with kaleidoscopic speed) but the lower officials are much more permanent, even if individuals change, the great brotherhood of kamoras is unbroken, and they have a long memory for their enemies or those who thwart them. And it must not be forgotten that the people, who are being plundered to-day, hope to be the plunderers themselves to-morrow, and, as a rule, have no quarrel with the system, only with an excessive abuse of it.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. Not as a rule, I pay for any damage or breakage.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

44. There are no gardens to camping grounds. I very occasionally buy vegetables from a local fund garden (there are very few of these) and now and then some vegetables may be given me without payment from a garden attached to a P. W. D. bungalow, say, which also supplies the wants of the S. D. O. and other P. W. D. subordinates at or near, likewise without charge.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. (a) The only reduction I could make in my private establishment would be to dispense with the bhisti and pay a man daily wages at each camp to do the work, but even then, though, of course, paid by me, he would often in practice be impressed for the job by the local zamindar.

(b) The official touring establishment is already cut down to the minimum of 3 clerks, the only other possible reduction is not to take the daftardar and his men round with me except at taluka headquarter and the like.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. Personally I think both the Collector's and the Assistant Collector and Deputy Collector's tours might be made nearly a month shorter without any real hurt, that is taking the Collector's tour as lasting 6 to 6½ months and the Sub-divisional Officer's 7½ to 8 months including the abkalani tour.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. My own opinion is that these rules are observed more in precept than practice. Zamindars nominally take up rasai contracts, actually it is usually done by their kamdars (as a class decidedly more oppressive and corrupt than the tapedars), or in some cases they get the tapedars to do it for them sub-rosâ.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. (a) I have no cut and dried scheme.

(b) Not without a handsome subsidy as he would have to tour round himself and also keep 2 or 3 agents to tour round and be present at the different officers' camps when more than one—as might easily happen—were touring in the taluka or sub-division at the same time. Also if he were given any official backing, and were dishonest, he would loot as badly or worse than any tapedar and as it would all be in the names of officers, they and Government would get the bad name for a thing in the profit of which they have no share, also he would have to pay blackmail to various offices and subordinates to insure against accusations of dishonesty and other harassments.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. Of camps, yes, as a rule. Requirements are pretty well stereotyped once the number and composition of the touring establishments are known.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. There is a good report by Mr. Hayter, D. S. P., No. 872, dated 4th March 1918.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. Not from subordinates, from zamindars of a certain standing. Only really big men are allowed to give me sheep.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. Dhali, Rs. 2 or 3; sheep, Rs. 3 to 6.

53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. Government Servants Conduct Rules, section 2. None; as regards dhalis, sheep have to be taken from certain big Pirs, Baluch sardars, etc., in Sind; as it is a gross insult to refuse them.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. A levy, a cess. It is used for the allowances paid to reapers and watchmen, also for the dues and cesses (in addition to ordinary batai) levied by a zamindar from his tenants or from small holders living in his raj.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. Each department has its own system.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. It is levied by the village officers and corresponding ranks in all departments. Higher officials squeeze the lower subordinates who do the actual collecting of it, and do not usually collect lapo (as distinct from individual bribes) themselves. It is collected from land-holders in the Revenue Department and the Irrigation Branch of the P. W. D. from maldars and villagers living near the forest in the forest department. It is an old, deeply rooted and vicious tradition in Sind that every petty official is entitled to make what he can in this way. In fact, his pay is looked on more as a retaining fee from Government than as his real remuneration for his work. So well established is the custom that as a rule it is never disputed and no "ostensible purpose needs to be set up, it is only when trying to increase the amount that an official will make out it is for some big officers' camp or the like.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. In the revenue department in Upper Sind lapo is levied by the tapedar at an anna in the rupee (or some such rate) on the assessment, in Lower Sind usually at a rupee or two per wheel or per field cultivated.

The tapedar's lapo is not levied for camps because essentially it has nothing to do with camps or camping, but touring offices often squeeze the tapedar of something while at the camp, and the latter if he sees a chance will make an extra levy (over and above regular lapo) on the neighbourhood on the pretext of providing for the big officer's camp, really to pocket it after giving a few tips to peons and servants and making the best bargain he can with the clerks who want to squeeze him.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. Regular lapo is only so used in the last resort, if special levy cannot be made by taking the sahib's name in vain. The so-called rasai fund as explained above is really in the main a fund for feasting and feeding inspecting offices and their clerical heads. Mukhtiarkars will commonly deny this and, if they admit its existence at all, try to falsely make out it is maintained solely to meet the exactions of the sahib's butler, because the latter is openly acknowledged to be venal, whereas a mukhtiarkar will raise up dangerous enmity to himself, if he dares to tell aloud the venality and extortion of the various grades of subordinate officials.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. Usually the taluka head munshi in the Revenue Department, where it exists; it is not universal. In some talukas, charges for annuities and the like are met by ad hoc levies direct from the tapedar at the time.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. In the Revenue Department (the essential system is the same in other departments, but the names of officials and details vary), the tapedar collects what he can according to custom and sticks to as much of it as is not squeezed out of him by the mukhtiarkar's office. The latter in turn collect what they can (a) from the tapedar, (b) from zamindar and others having business at the kardarate and willing to pay tips for getting it put through, and stick to as much as is not squeezed out of them by inspecting officers. Unfortunately it is not entirely unknown for responsible officers like mukhtiarkars and even daftardars and deputy collectors (and the corresponding ranks in other departments) to take a hand in this game for their own profit.

The power of peons now-a-days is quite broken, all they get are mere tips (as distinct from big bribes), and a little free-feeding here and there, and the same is true of private servants, even of the much-abused butler.

The amounts much vary, but Rs. 5 to 10 to the butler and the same to the naik of the peons is the ordinary tip, at a camp, and, of course, peons often get small tips at the doors from visitors to an officer.

The annuities and payments to inspecting offices are much more serious; I have heard of as much as Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 being paid when the Commissioner inspected a taluka office, and correspondingly less amounts when the Collector or Assistant Collector held the inspection, in the latter case it would not exceed a few hundred.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. Here the universal principle in Sind is nothing for nothing. If a man wants special attention and favours, legitimate or otherwise, he must pay for them. Undoubtedly the tapedar or other subordinate can help to evade Government dues and break rules to their profit, and his actual power to bestow illegitimate favours of this kind is much exaggerated in popular estimation.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. This is the chief (though by no means the only) reason for the system of annuities described above.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. Not at all, rasai has been considerably lessened and restricted, but the rules do not really touch lapo. The latter is supported by old custom, and by the fact that there are a hundred and one little favours mostly illegitimate and at the cost of Government or his neighbour which the tapedar or Irrigation, Police or Forest subordinate can show to a zamindar in return for being kept khush.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. None I can find in the files.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. So long as the levy of assessment in Sind depends on whether a field is cultivated or not or whether water is used in a particular way in a given year, nothing but a change in the habits and standard of morality of the people will stop lapo. An increase in the number and a decrease in the size of the charges of really responsible officers like Collectors, Executive Engineers, District Superintendents of Police and Deputy Conservators of Forests who can be trusted to be above bribery could keep it down though not entirely eliminate it. But a good deal might be done even without such a splitting up of charges if the Government of India and Provincial Government would, as suggested by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, reduce their secretariats and restrain their thirst for reports and information of varying degrees of usefulness, which chain district officers to their desks, leaving them not half enough time to keep in personal touch with the people or really look after their subordinates.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. It is a levy of men for any public undertaking, war or labour.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. In Sind they are the haris and some small peasant holders. They are always Mahomedans, Hindus used to be included in the days of the Mirs, but under English rule they are always exempt in the parts I have served in.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Chiefly stopping breaches in canals and bunds, or doing urgent clearance work.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Impliedly all haris hold their lands on condition of turning out for their zamindar when he wants them for such work or for his own shikar, but powerful zamindars may impress small land-holders and their men who hold no land from them and are under no such contract.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. They commonly get fed but not paid by their zamindars. Where Government work is done on canals or roads, either daily wages or piece-work rates are paid.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Only at Hyderabad and in very small and uncertain quantity in a few smaller towns, such as Hala, Matiari and Tando Allahyar.

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. List as under; all local fund:—

		Beldars.	Malis.	Total.
Taluka Local Board ...	Hyderabad	0	12	12
	Tando Allahyar	15	8	23
	Hala	0	21	21
	Guni	24	14	38
	Badin	0	10	10
	Tando Bago	30	9	39
	Dero Mohbat	30	9	39

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. Only under section 58, Irrigation Act.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. No village service inams of any kind, but there are a few seris, holders of which are bound to give help to troops and Government officers in tour in obtaining supplies, carriage, etc., and in procuring labour for canal and road repairs under clauses (8) and (9) of their sanad.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. For pitching and striking tents and helping in loading and unloading kit.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. Three or four are generally kept there, as watchmen and messengers.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. See answer 19 above.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. From the local zamindar or from local fund beldars and the like.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. No. They are generally in regular employ as haris, and the like and are merely turned out for this job—which is an easy loaf most of the time—by their zamindars just as he calls them up for odd jobs for himself or his private guests.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. Depends on the daily rates, now varying from 6 to 12 annas a day in the mofussil. No, the rasai contractor himself would have to get them from the zamindars in most places.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. Yes, except the actual tent-pitching—which wants a small crowd of men to put up or take down a big tent really safely—it could all be done by engaging a few khalasis for the tour. The work is wholly Government (assuming one has one's own bhisti) necessitated by handling tents and office kit, etc., and there is no reason for increasing private establishment.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. For duck and snipe-shooting I hire the professional mohanas on the dhandhs, paying them current daily wages.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. For beating up partridge and quail one usually has to get men from the local zamindar who sometimes will, and sometimes would not, accept payment. If a big zamindar invites one to shoot with him, he would naturally be insulted, if you tried to pay him for his hospitality; but, of course, small men will usually take payment.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. Depends on how long they are kept out, e.g., walking up partridge usually only takes an hour or two in the morning or evening, and that too in the slack season when the men have nothing much to do. A big zamindar who runs a whole-day shoot will feed his men well, he does not pay them generally because they are in his permanent employ.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Zamindari chher is seldom needed for the roads unless a sudden visit by the Governor or Commissioner or some such very high authority takes place. When called out it is usually paid for by the district local board or taluka local board at piece-work rates.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

87 & 88. These are questions for P. W. D. officers.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. Depends entirely at what time of the year they are called up. The cold weather tour takes place chiefly when agricultural operations are very slack and there is little or any interference with such. Labour to close a breach may be wanted any time but then it is to the immediate and vital interest of the land-holders and haris themselves to get it closed.

90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

90. There are but few camps (chiefly taluka headquarters) where I ever have to use them for camp labour myself. Mukhtiarkars often use them as extra peons to run errands, carry post and do odd jobs for them, but I discourage this whenever it comes to my notice.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. I do not see that it can be safely dispensed with in case of irrigation works, and that is the only legal obligation existing. As for a score of men being called in to pitch tents for an hour or so that does not interfere with anything in particular and is quite in accordance with the habits and customs of the country. The constant attendance of men in camp could easily be dispensed with, if Government supplied touring officers with a few khalasis. On the other hand these too would try to live on the country, if they could.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HEY.

To the Chairman—

I carried out the special repairs to the roads by Local Board agency, if I had time; if not, by the agency of zamindars.

Most of the kotars keep ponies.

The average number of camps made by the Assistant Collectors in each taluka would be about 5 or 6. The average distance would be between 12 or 13 miles. That is more particularly with regard to the Naushahro sub-division. It would be about 8 or 10 miles in the Shikarpur sub-division. It would be about 8 or 10 miles in the ordinary parts of the Larkana district; about 12 to 15 miles in the Kohistan and Kachho. It is the exception to have regularly maintained camping grounds in these places. There would be no practical difficulty in setting aside regular camping grounds, maintaining them and providing for the extra cost. It might be possible to maintain the camping ground by small seri grants of lands, if you can find the right kind of man. I doubt if such a small seri-holder would be able or willing to collect the necessary amount of supplies for the camp, such as eggs, fowls, milk, karbi and fuel. Probably he might be able to collect the necessary amount of karbi, but probably he would not have sufficient labour to collect the fuel.

I think it would be possible to find a small bania to set up a bania shop at the camping grounds temporarily, if the camping grounds were very near to his village. I doubt if a small bania would be willing even if he got a small subsidy of Rs. 5 or so to bring out a small shop at a distance from his village; I mean if it was over a mile from the village. I did get a bania to come out to my camp at Madeli, but that was with difficulty and by personally persuading the mukhi of the village.

I don't think that a small seri-holder, if a Mohamedan, would grow English vegetables, even if he were given seed for camping grounds. I think a Hindu might.

I think probably 4 to 5 months would be sufficient for the tour of the Collector; about 6—6½ months for the Assistant Collector. I think it would be much simpler to cease keeping account of the exact number of days spent in touring by the Collector and Assistant Collector and to specify generally the months he should be out during the touring season. That is the practice in the Deccan.

My source of information, as regards Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 paid to the inspecting staff of the Commissioner's camp, was a mukhtiarkar, a retired head munshi and two or three zamindars who said that they had been asked to make special contributions to the lapo. I am not prepared to vouch for the accuracy of the figures; it probably might be exaggerated.

I am in favour of bringing the mukhtiarkars into closer and more direct relationship with the zamindars. That would tend to reduce lapo. Anything that reduces correspondence with regard to matters which interest the zamindars and tend to the personal disposal of the work by the responsible officer, such as the mukhtiarkar, would tend to reduce lapo. I think it would be quite possible to abolish supervising tapedars and in their place to appoint an extra mukhtiarkar or naib mukhtiarkar and to direct that he should do the work of supervising tapedars in relation with the zamindars. It would be necessary in big talukas to keep as many as two naib mukhtiarkars. The average number of supervising tapedars is four in each taluka. The present pay of a supervising tapedar varies from Rs. 30 to 35, but administrative sanction has been given to the raising of their pay from Rs. 40 to Rs. 75. Therefore the average cost of the supervising tapedars in a taluka would be at least Rs. 200 a month. That would sufficiently cover the cost of pay and travelling allowance of the extra mukhtiarkar.

The holding of seri-holders referred to in my answer to question 74 would be 7 to 15 acres according to whether he held one or two fields.

I have occasionally given a tip at the end of the camp, if there was any special trouble in connection with the work of chheras at the camp. Very often the difficulty about giving tips to the chheras is that the men who pitch the tents are not the same as those who strike them. It is simpler in the Deccan where the mahars work under a headman who comes for the tips at the end of the camp.

The cost of paying the chheras used in camp would be about Rs. 7-8-0 on the first and on the last day; Re. 1 or Rs. 2 on intermediate days for bringing in supplies. If the chheras of camps are paid for at the ordinary rates, it would cost the Assistant Collector, who makes on the average 9 or 10 camps in the busiest season, about Rs. 150, I mean during those 3 or 4 busy months or rather Rs. 100, allowing for the fact that he would have certain camps in bungalows. It would therefore be necessary to revise the travelling allowances in Sind.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

One essential of touring is partal, that is, the crop inspection. It is not a fact that all the work can be done at headquarters. You cannot inspect the work of the tapedars and other subordinates of the mukhtiarkar's office without going on tour. It is also necessary to go to the spot and make inspections in connection with land grants, irrigation, building sites and so forth. Gross injustice might result if these matters were decided by correspondence. It is also undoubtedly important to keep in touch with the zamindars, specially in Sind. This could not be done at all if the officers remained all the time at their headquarters. It is also important to have a reliable officer to whom complaints can be made on the spot against subordinates. There is not a great number of such complaints, but 60 to 75 % of those received on the spot proved true.

There are about 30 or 40 inspections apart from crop inspection in the course of a tour in each taluka. That would be in the case of a busy charge like the Naushahro division. It might be somewhat less in the Karachi talukas. There are certain tracts of lands which have to be toured through for local inspection and for getting into touch with the zamindars at places where there are no camping grounds. My practice is as far as possible to encamp at big villages and to ride out to small villages for inspections on the spot. The partal is mostly done by the Assistant Collector, but the Collector takes it at places where necessary and generally at places not visited by the Assistant Collector. He would not waste time in inspecting lands already inspected by the Deputy Collector and Assistant Collector, unless he wanted to check the work of the Deputy Collector and Assistant Collector. In some matters the Collector would not delegate his powers, except to an experienced Assistant Collector, and in other matters powers cannot be delegated to the Assistant Collector.

To the Chairman—

All powers conferred on the Assistant Collector can be reserved by the Collector. The matter is regulated by the Land Revenue Code and the rules thereunder. All decisions of the Assistant Collector are subject to the Collector's appeal. That work of course could not be delegated by the Collector.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

A private traveller with a retinue could not get supplies without the help of the local zamindar. I believe such a traveller, e.g., a por, gets his rasai on a much bigger scale than local officials.

I don't think private establishments could be reduced either of a European or of an Indian touring officer, the tendency of the latter is to increase them owing to the alterations in the standard of living of Indians.

I left Sind in 1911 and returned in 1916. I was only Assistant Collector before 1911 and had 5 or 6 years' experience. During that time rasai was made by the tapedars in the Revenue Department, by daroghas in the Public Works Department, sub-inspectors and head constables in the Police Department, and foresters and forest guards in the Forest Department.

No one paid for the supplies, except the responsible officers, such as Assistant Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Collectors and all superior grades of officers. My wants were just the same as they are now.

The price per fowl would be 4 to 6 annas for a small fowl and 6 annas to 8 annas for a big fowl. That was in the Larkana district. The price of eggs was 6 annas a dozen, I think, in small villages ; probably more in big towns. About a dozen eggs were used a day. Nothing was paid for the fuel as a general rule, as it was brought from waste Government numbers and sometimes brought by the zamindars. Milk was charged for in my bills. I used to take grain for my horse with myself and buy from time to time at any large town where grain could be had. I used to try to pay for karbi, but the big zamindars refused to take the money. They said it was their custom to supply it to anybody, such as a private zamindar. The bills were presented at the end of the camps by the zamindar. The bills were sometimes prepared in consultation with the butlers, sometimes in consultation with the naibs and sometimes in consultation with the munshis, probably to avoid the complaints regarding the bandobast of the camp.

It would depend upon the type of servants what things they requisitioned and the control kept over them by the master. They would take the balance for themselves. They would, as a general rule, show in the bills only those supplies which were actually required by the officers and not include articles, such as ghee or flour and things which are not required by the officers. It would be the servant's object to please his master. He would generally fix the bill at a little lower rate than that at headquarters, because he knew that the officer knew that rates were cheaper for certain things in the mofussil.

My personal experience is that the butler does not show much less than what is supplied. As far as I can tell they showed in my bills what was actually supplied. I always used to pay myself to the tapedar. I have no reason to suppose that money was taken back by the butler but once or twice I had reason to suppose that money was taken by my naik and peons.

I have heard of the fee called kilokhorani, but in that case it was not a fee to the butler but paid to the havaldar and peons. It was a long time ago. I have not come across any case in my actual experience. It would not be possible in the case of my butler, as he comes with me long after the tents are pitched.

I think peons and establishment do get something, but it is only nominal ; probably they pay more now than of old. The tapedar used to make a levy to pay the excess. He would make up from lapo, if he could not make a special levy from the zamindar. Sometimes the tapedars were helped by the punchayats.

Sometimes the excess is borne by lapo and sometimes by cash levy. There was a rasai fund in some of the talukas. The payment used to be paid out at the headquarters, except at small camps where the excess would be met by a local levy. The rasai fund was collected by the tapedars out of their lapo or by withholding their pay. There was no additional levy of rasai fund from the zamindars but there might be an additional levy, if the camp was in the village of a particular zamindar ; then the levy would fall on the zamindar and he would collect from the raj (haris). The amount was usually kept with the head munshi. I myself did not come across any case in which it was actually kept in the treasury.

I used to warn zamindars not to bring anything and give them to my servants without payment. I used to enquire personally from the zamindars whether they received payments for the supplies.

I have heard complaints about the rasai fund and there was a general order that all officers should do their best to put it down.

All supplies came through the tapedar, but I had reasons to suppose that some supplies were brought to the officers' menials and their establishment direct from the zamindars. I knew of tips made to the peons and establishment and I suspect that money was paid to the establishment, but I have no direct detailed statement. I did in some cases suspect that the mukhtiarkar did control the rasai fund, for he often came to the camp to see that the munshis were entertained. He would meet the cost of entertainment of the munshis from the rasai fund and leave the providing of supplies to the tapedars. I think the tapedars have no need to levy lapo except custom. If he wants more than the usual lapo, then very probably he gives rasai as his reason.

I don't think stopping of rasai will have any effect on lapo. The fact that tapedars have said so would not make me believe them, rather it would confirm me in my statement..

I should say the zamindars pay lapo for general favours and also with a view to claiming special favours, if necessary. In some small matters for a special favour the men were paid, but at a very low rate ; I think the explanation was that lapo had already been paid at the time of general assessment. The tapedars get Rs. 10 horse allowance which has been proposed to be increased. It would be enough to maintain an ordinary Sindhi pony before. It would not be enough now for an honest tapedar.

I think the pay of a tapedar was sufficient before the rise of prices to maintain himself in his position as the son of a small bania, but the difficulty was that he was made to contribute towards the rasai fund and also by custom he was supposed to maintain a higher standard of living, the moment he became an official.

I heard of the circular of 1914 on my return in 1916 to Sind. In Naushahro and in some parts of the Sukkur district the orders were a dead-letter, because the zamindars would not undertake the work; either they handed it over to the kamdars or got the work done as before by the tapedar. The original system continued except that the tapedar was kept out of sight and the bills were formally produced by the zamindars. When the kamdar did the work, no check was kept over him by the zamindar. I know that in some cases the zamindars were paid, because peons and establishments complained of their having been looted by the zamindar, I don't see that the new system would make much difference to the kamdars beyond causing them extra trouble.

I don't know of the state of rasai in other departments.

I generally agree with the letter of Mr. Hayter. I think his ideas are somewhat utopian in respect of the Police Department. I think the haris would be oppressed as much by the zamindars as by the tapedars. The haris are even more in the hands of the zamindars. Some portion of rasai falls on haris ultimately. The smaller portions would fall on the zamindars and sometimes on the panchayat. It would be in the interest of haris to remove the hand of tapedar and zamindar. I think it would be good for the haris to remove the hand of the zamindar, if it were practicable ; the same would apply to the tapedar. I can't think of any practical way to do it.

To the Chairman—

It might gradually be done by the system of seri grants.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The zamindars who complained to me did not complain so much of rasai as of the increase of lapo. The zamindars bitterly complained of lapo, for all of them said to me that rasai is merely a feather in the scale as compared with lapo. Most of them say that stopping rasai would not stop lapo. They think if the superior officers did not come on tour to check the work, there would be more lapo than ever.

The tapedars have great powers of delay but they have no real power over the zamindars ; but the zamindars think they have. The powers of delay are exercised very heavily. I have endeavoured to get over this evil by diminishing correspondence and trying as far as possible to adopt the kacheri system of land grants. I think the kacheri system is successful as far as it goes. Some obstacles were thrown in its way by munshis and zamindars who were interested in the correspondence system.

I am in favour of the system of paying the assessment direct into the treasury and also by remittances of money orders. Some small khatedars will still have to pay to the tapedars unless postal services were also extended and the small khatedars were educated enough to use postal money orders. Ultimately it would be possible to remove the hand of the tapedars from the collections of land revenue. That will materially reduce the levy of lapo from the zamindars.

I have no definite scheme prepared for stopping rasai and lapo.

It takes about 10 men or 12 men to pitch one of my 16 foot double pole Swiss cottage tent, including the chheras and my own peons. 10 or 15 chheras are required to pitch the tent in addition to the peons. I think it would be better if they are paid. The chheras are also used, as far as I know, by the menials.

I think the daftardars and deputy collectors probably don't want to take the trouble to stop rasai. I am referring to one or two exceptional cases of daftardars and doputy collectors. The Assistant Collector and Collector would not mind the trouble and worry, if they only find some substitute, to put a stop to the rasai. I should be personally delighted, if some system could be devised by this Committee.

I only speak of one instance of the Commissioner's camp referred to in my written statements.

To Mr. Sawhney—

It is very important to go on tour in order to see that the work is properly done. The Collectors, particularly Mr. Monie, tried very hard to stop rasai in the Nawabshah district. All officers that I have encamped with did their best to stop rasai. They have failed because this problem is so very difficult.

The chheras are required simply for raising the tent and lowering it when being struck, the rest of the work is done by the peons. They are also required for a short time only for pitching the tents, for the rest of the work is done by the peons.

I think it would be sufficient if an increase of 50 % touring allowances were granted to all district officers to stop lapo. It would also improve the administration generally if the additional expenditure could be afforded. I think the spread of education, particularly by means of co-operative societies, will improve matters.

I am not in favour of deputy collectors being appointed from people of the lower ranks. I don't think it would be workable for tapedars to be promoted to mukhtiarkars, as it would be difficult to get the right class of men, as the number of mukhtiarkars is limited.

The length of the tour does not include the abkalani tour of the Assistant Collector.

I think a bania with a subsidy of Rs. 100 would be able to employ sub-agents to give supplies on payment according to scheduled rates, but there would be exceptional cases also, e.g., in the Police Department. He would have no official power and if necessary it would have to be made clear that no assistance would be given to him by the tapedar or mukhtiarkar or any other official.

The consultation with the butler and tapedar does not now exist. My answers referred to the old state of things.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I only mentioned the possibility of employment of naib mukhtiarkar ; as a matter of finance he would have to be on the regular grade with prospects of promotion to mukhtiarkarship.

To the Chairman—

I think the appointment of a deputy collector to do the inspection of offices independently might have an effect in stopping lapo of those offices, but the Assistant Collector and Collector would then be more out of touch with offices.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. LOWSLEY.

1. Name.	1. C. O. Lowsley, Esq.
2. Appointment.	2. Executive Engineer, Fuleli Canals.
3. Headquarters.	3. Hyderabad, Sind.
4. Length of service.	4. 13½ years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 13½ years.
	General.
6. What is the area covered by your tour?	6. 3,500 square miles.
7. What is the period of your tour?	7. 7 months a year.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour?	8. Eight.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour?	9. 3 clerks, 8 peons and 14 camelmen.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?	10. I take from headquarters everything except chicken, eggs, ghee, milk, butter and fuel. My establishment take about a fortnight's supply of flour, rice and spices.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?	11. I require the articles mentioned above and fish if available. Establishment require ghee, milk, meat, sugar, spices, flour and rice when their supply is consumed.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour?	12. Tents, chairs, tables and ordinary camp furniture.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps?	13. Cots are required for the establishment. A few water jars at each camp; no furniture.
14. What tents do you take on tour?	14. Four tents for myself and clerks; seven rowtis for servants.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?	15. Servants' quarters at bungalows and rowtis at other camps.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. Stables at bungalows and kacha landhis at camps.
17. What records do you take on tour?	17. Current and other records equivalent to four camel loads.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?	18. Clerks' quarters at most bungalows, otherwise tents.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?	19. An average of 12 additional men on arrival and departure, about 4 of which are muccadams or beldars in Government service.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. Bad.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. District local board and taluka local board. Contractors, local fund beldars and I believe zamindari help.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?	22. Very occasionally. Local fund beldars, canal establishment with help of zamindars' haris.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?	23. Ponies, riding camels and very occasionally tonga. Transport engaged for the whole period of tour.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?

24. Two tapali camel sowars paid by Government who bring post from nearest post office.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. Towns and villages all over the district.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. Canal establishment prepare temporary sites where no fixed camping ground exists.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. All of them.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. Seven.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. There are 24 bungalows in the district.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. One chowkidar and a mali where there is a garden.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. General arrangements for the provision of supplies on tour.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. One to two chickens, ¼ lb. ghee or country butter, 1 fish if available, 3 to 4 seers of milk for consumption and butter-making, 1 maund of fuel.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. Private establishment: 4 seers milk, 4 lbs. meat, 10 lbs. flour or rice, ¼ lb. ghee, 1 maund fuel, spices.

Official establishment: 10 seers milk, 10 lbs. meat, 30 lbs. flour or rice, 1½ lbs. ghee, 2 maunds fuel, spices.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Wheat Rs. 6 per maund, rice Rs. 7-8-0 per maund, eggs ½ anna each, fowls 4 to 6 annas. Sheep—have only accepted one in 7 years and I bought one for Rs. 3-8-0, milk 2 annas per seer, bajri and juari stalks grown to a large extent in bungalow compounds and supplied free at other camps. Firewood obtained from dead canal trees.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. I believe not.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. Rs. 14 including cost of fuel and grass for horses.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Provided by darogha who purchases ghee, spices, butter, etc., from the bania and chickens, eggs, etc., from the nearest villages. I have reason to believe that some chickens, eggs, meat for establishment, are obtained by daroghas and muccadams from haris on the give and take system.

38. How are they paid for?

38. I personally pay the darogha for my own supplies and personally pay the man who brings cows to my camp for milk. I enquire occasionally if supplies are paid for by my establishment.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. None.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. My own bills amount to about Rs. 2 per day and I cannot state the actual payments by my establishment. I believe they get milk and meat free, but pay for other articles received.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. Some minor expenses are borne by daroghas and muccadams. Zamindars and haris supply muccadams and daroghas with milk, chickens, eggs, free, to obtain the good-will of the establishment.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. There is no rasai fund in P. W. D. Certainly any cost of P. W. D. camps is not met by mukhtiarkar's rasai fund.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. No. Daroghas keep a set of jars and they are used for several camps at the same place, no other furniture beyond cots is requisitioned. Stables where necessary are usually constructed from Government materials, which are nearly always available.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

44. I obtain vegetables from P. W. D. gardens and pay for them.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. No. The official establishment has already been reduced to a minimum, and it is impossible to reduce one's private establishment.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. Certainly not.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. To a very small degree. Contractors appointed were seldom present and even when they were, the zamindar contractor preferred to get the local Government official to provide supplies with his help.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars.

48. None. I think not.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. A copy of my tour is forwarded to all officials concerned. Zamindar contractors have practically ceased to exist.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. None.

51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. I occasionally receive dhalis of vegetables and fruit—never sheep—from contractors and a few respectable zamindars.
I do not accept from subordinates.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. Rs. 3 to Rs. 8. Sheep not accepted.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. Orders are that such petty dhalis may be accepted. I have had no difficulty in restricting such dhalis to fruit and vegetables.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. A cash payment by zamindars to Government officials to obtain their good-will.

55. How many forms ar there of unauthorized 'Lapo.'

55. I don't know.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. By petty officials of most departments from the zamindar as hush-money.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. I believe in the case of the Revenue Department at an anna in the rupee on assessment or Re. 1 per survey number. Daroghas about Re. 1 per karia.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. I believe lapo is only indirectly connected with a rasai fund as regards subordinates. In the case of zamindars contributing to a rasai fund it is a direct contribution.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. I believe only the Revenue Department have a rasai fund managed by the head munshi or headquarters' tapedar.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. I don't know.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. (1) For the Revenue Department I believe lapo is exacted to obtain favours in connection with assessment, fines and offences against land revenue code.

(2) Irrigation.—To obtain favours in connection with the use of unauthorized water courses, increase in size of kacha sluices, grazing on canal banks, cutting canal trees.

(3) Police.—Favours in connection with all offences against the law.

(4) Forest.—Favours in connection with grazing rights and damage to forest property.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. I don't know.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. I think not.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. None.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. No suggestions to offer.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Supply of labour, either paid or unpaid, by zamindars when required.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Zamindari men and other villagers.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Helping in moving camp of officials, making up roads, closing canal breaches and help when urgently required for Government purposes which in nearly every case is for the benefit of the public.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Not that I know of.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?

70. I believe zamindars sometimes give them food. For canal work they are practically always paid.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Depends on the time of year and season.

72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?

72. A small staff of beldars and muccadams are maintained by Government for canal and bund maintenance. Some local fund beldars are employed.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. Under section 58 of the Irrigation Act.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. I don't know.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. For help in moving camp.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. None.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?

77. About 12.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. From the neighbouring village.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. They are not paid and I do not think the zamindar pays them. They regard it as an old custom and their duty.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the rasai contractor?

80. I should think about Rs. 6 per camp. Probably.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase, while on tour, of your own private and official establishments?

81. Yes. I think additional help could be obtained on daily wages.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. By engaging coolies whom I pay. For a big shoot, even when arranged by a zamindar, mohanas are paid in full and the zamindars' men given bakhshish and generally some of the bag.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. Coolies and mohanas at prevailing daily rates. Zamindars' men a lump sum. Zamindars occasionally protest at their men receiving payment but agree when informed that it is bakhshish and not wages.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. I believe zamindars feed them when employed on a big shoot.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Since the employment of road beldars, I believe demands on zamindars have greatly decreased. If a road is required in a hurry, zamindars help and consider it their duty to repair the road in their mohag.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

86. Not that I am aware of.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. It depends on the nature of the breach.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. In nearly every case they are paid full rates. Zamindars sometimes submit written statements that they will not accept payment.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. No interference or loss.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

90. No information to offer.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

91. None.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. Chher should continue. In 99 cases out of 100 it is for the direct or indirect benefit of the zamindars or the public in general. The very few occasions on which chher is employed by petty officials for private work could be resisted by the zamindar and could be stopped by higher officials.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. LOWSLEY.

To the Chairman—

My tour roughly covers the whole of the Tando sub-division and the whole of the Hyderabad taluka.

The rest of the labour required on tour is provided by zamindari chher.

Special repairs are required when the roads are bad and I have to go over the ground.

My camps are mostly in bungalows.

I don't make use of mutton on tour, but I use fowls and game. It is my experience that zamindars generally provide a greater number of men than are usually required for shooting purposes. I think a good number are boys, who merely come to look on at the shooting.

Mohag means the frontage of zamindari land.

I think that when there are many partners in a karia nothing is paid. I believe a very small fee is paid for khuhadas. I believe fees are paid by the contractors on contracts, but the money is divided between the subordinate officers in charge of the work and the clerks of the offices concerned, such as Sub-divisional Officer, Executive Engineer and Superintending Engineer. But I know that it is resisted by some of the subordinates. I don't believe this is a systematic practice. The rates vary. I have been informed by reliable authorities about it. It is probably about 1 % for the Executive Engineer's office. I should think the whole would be covered by 7 or 8% on the contracts. I am not aware of any other form of lapo in the Public Works Department.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I pay the owners of the cow when the cow is brought to camp, unless the owner is a big zamindar, who nearly always refuses payment. I nearly always have a cow in my camp. I don't pay for fuel, as it is collected on canal banks by the Government men. My Rs. 2 bill is made up as follows :—8 annas for 2 chickens, 2 or 3 annas ghee, 6 annas for eggs, milk when paid for which is frequent 8 annas, miscelleneous items the rest. The rate of chicken has gone up, it used to be 3 to 5 annas some years ago, now it is 4 to 6 annas. I still pay ½ anna per egg. I grow fodder in the compounds of touring bungalows and so I do not pay for it, otherwise I get it from zamindars. They would not take payment.

I believe that muccadums get fees for allowing maldars to graze their cattle on canal banks, not fees but chickens and provisions for touring officers and their establishments, that is to say for rasai. They are supplied gratis to the establishment. It is in the interest of daroghas and muccadums to propitiate the establishments. The darogha gets Rs. 30 to Rs. 45 pay. They have to keep a horse but they don't get any horse allowance. The minimum Rs. 30 is rather low to maintain himself and a horse, i.e., if he pays for everything he gets. A muccadum gets Rs. 10 to 11 which has recently been raised to Rs. 12. It is sufficient pay for the work they do. I think it is enough to maintain himself with one or two dependents.

The daroghas have opportunities of favouring or harassing the zamindars. I think it is probable that they levy a special fee for special jobs, but I have no special information. There were a few contractors for a short time in the P. W. D., but the system of rasai has not changed since 1914. An attempt was made to carry out the circular. I always send out a copy of the programme of all my camps one week before to the mukhtiarkars. I find it did not work, for the contractors never turned up. For many camps no contractors were appointed. No contractors were procurable. I think, as a rule, zamindars don't like to be contractors. They don't like to take the trouble and also think it below their dignity to do the work.

I don't favour the system of entrusting contract to the zamindars. I don't think that contractors could be found who would be independent of all the departments concerned. No contractor would deal in all the articles required.

To Mr. Sawhney—

The additional men are seldom required, as I live in bungalows. A few men are required to help even in the bungalows and there is nearly always an office tent, but less men are required when I am in bungalows.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KUNDANSING K. LAHORI.

1. Name. — 1. Kundansing K. Lahori.

2. Appointment. — 2. District Deputy Collector, Hala division.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Hyderabad, Sind.

4. Length of service. — 4. 27 years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. I have served as a mukhtiarkar for about a year-and-a-half in 3 talukas of Upper Sind districts; as a Deputy Manager, Encumbered Estates in Sind, for 3 years in charge of Lower Sind districts; as the Assistant and the Deputy Colonisation Officer, Jamrao Canal, for 7 years; and as a district deputy collector for 6 years.

I have toured through the Karachi, Hyderabad, Thar and Parkar, Sukkur and the Nawabshah districts in different capacities.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. Hala division comprised of Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar and Hala talukas; area 1,500 square miles.

7. What is the period of your tour? — 7. 7 months in a year.

8. What private servants accompany you on tour? — 8. 2 servants (a cook and a bearer), one horse and a syce form my permanent private establishment, besides one riding camel and 4 baggage ones in charge of 2 camelmen engaged for touring season only.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? — 9. 3 clerks and 5 munshis with one riding camel for each, 4 peons and 3 camelmen in charge of 15 baggage camels is my official establishment.

10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? — 10. I take all unperishable articles, as flour, rice, sugar, ghee, spices, pulses, potatoes, in quantities large enough to last till replenished at a camp in a big and important village, where these things are procurable in the bazaars. My establishments I believe take nothing with them, except their utensils, bedding and clothes.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 11. I require only perishable articles, as I cannot carry with me from headquarters, such as meat, butter, eggs, fowl, green vegetable, milk, fuel, grass and grain for the horse to be supplied to me fresh in every camp. My establishments require all kinds of food provisions (perishable as well as unperishable articles) to be supplied to them in the camp.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? — 12. I take with me as private furniture 2 easy chairs (folding), 1 camp table, 1 lamp, 3 carpets, 2 teapoys, 1 bathing tub and a gendi and its stand. My office furniture is:—1 dozen chairs, 8 pieces camp table, 6 cotton carpets, 8 woollen carpets, 10 despatch boxes.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? — 13. From 15 to 20 cots are required for my camp, both for my use as well as for the use of my establishments and menials. This is a minimum number, when on occasions camelmen and some of the menials must sleep on floor owing to unovercomable difficulty to get cots one for each. From 20 to 30 water jars are required for our camp. No other furniture is locally supplied.

14. What tents do you take on tour — 14. I carry 3 tents (2 miniature Swiss cottage tents for my personal use and a rowti for servants). For office one hill tent and 2 rowtis.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? — 15. My private establishments live in the servants' pal pitched in the camping ground. My peons also live there in rowtis supplied to them by Government. My office establishments find sometimes a tapedar's dero, and sometimes a musafirkhana, when there is no dero, and sometimes, when both are not available, an otak of a zamindar, where they live.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? — 16. A landhi is built on every camp for my horse where enough karbi (juari or bajri stalks) is supplied already for the use of my horse during the time of the camp, which is ordinarily 3 days.

17. What records do you take on tour?

17. 3 years' records, revenue, judicial and English, are carried in the districts.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?

18. My office is conducted in a Government supplied tent pitched in the camping ground where my private personal office tent is pitched within a few yards of it.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?

19. From 15 to 20 chheras are required to help the peons to pitch tents and for clearing up the camping grounds of jungle and other rubbish. These chheras go away after tents are pitched and are again called when unpitching of tents is done. Sometimes a village bania is supplied to help the cook in bringing water and cleaning utensils. He is fed by the servants.

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?

20. Most of the roads are alright for traffic. In this country we don't require very good roads, because the cart and carriage traffic is an unusual sight, and all kind-conveyance is done on camelback. From 2 to 5 thousand rupees are every year spent by a taluka local board to keep these roads in a state of repairs.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?

21. Mukhtiarkar is held responsible for the repair of the roads and the agency he uses is usually beldars, sometimes contractors and sometimes the zamindar chheras.

22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?

22. I don't expect any special repairs to be made to roads which I would use to reach my camps, but mukhtiarkars and zamindars do usually arrange to give them a touch of repairs; but in only such parts, as they feel, would cause inconvenience to me during riding or to my camp camels.

23. What are you means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?

23. We carry our kit on camels engaged for the whole touring season before starting on tour at the headquarters.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?

24. My post is received at the headquarters of the talukas in which there are post offices located. It is sent to me by the mukhtiarkar of the taluka to my camps in it either with a kotar or a private man supplied by a zamindar and our post, both official and private, is sent to the headquarters of the talukas from our camps in them for being posted through a kotar or a zamindar's man. He may be the same man who brought it or a new man, if the same man is unable to proceed at once on account of fatigue to him or to his riding animal.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. Two or 3 camps are usually made by me at the headquarters of the talukas during the whole touring season for holding land-grant kutcheries, doing jamabandis and for inspecting the taluka offices and we have to encamp in tapas also, but in which places it all depends upon the convenience of the work to be done from the several camps. So in a tapa no place is fixed for a camp. It may change every year.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. At the headquarter stations of the talukas the camping grounds kept fit for use of touring officers are provided. In villages they have to be selected every year and cleared of jungle and levelled in about one-and-a-half acre of land.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. Besides the taluka headquarter station camping grounds which are within practical reach of villages of banias' shops and bazars. We have in this division 2 or 3 other places within a convenient distance of the bazars.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. In this division only Hala has a garden near its camping ground. In villages where we encamp if there is P. W. D. bungalow there is always a vegetable garden attached to it.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. In my division bungalows are provided at about dozen places, of which 3 are district bungalows and the rest P. W. D. ones. During the touring season camps are made in places where these bungalows are situated, but not in all.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. In some bungalows a watchman and a mali are maintained and in some only a watchman.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Rasai originally a reception organized by contributions and subscriptions to meet distinguished visitors and guests, has since the commencement of the present Government meant an arrangement to provide touring officers with necessary comforts during their visits in camp to the talukas. It includes supply of provision, service and labour free at inadequate or at full prices.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. I require 2 eggs and fish about half a lb., if procurable within 4 miles of my camp, a pound of meat or a fowl, one seer of milk, a quarter lb. of butter, 4 seers of bajri grain for the horse, 2 bundles of grass and fuel, the quantity of which depends upon the season. In winter when it is very cold a maund of fuel may not suffice, and 10 seers a day is the minimum quantity.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. Private servants' requirements:—

My cook and the boy do not require anything special as I have to feed them. The syce requires one seer of rice and flour and one chattak of ghee and 1½ lbs. of meat when he can get it free and milk about a lb., that too when he gets it free.

The official establishments require each member one pound of both rice and flour, 2 chattaks of ghee, half a pound of meat, fish if they can get free away from the taluka headquarters, quarter of a pound of dal and vegetables. Some of them eggs and fowl also, the latter only as a substitute of vegetables in the case of Mahomedan munshis.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Wheat flour 5 seers a rupee, rice from 5 to 3½ seers a rupee, eggs 2 pice an egg, fowl 4 to 6 annas for full fowl, sheep never in demand by any in the camp, milk usually gratis, butter 1½ seers a rupee, bajri 3½ rupees to 6½ rupees a maund, juari no consumption, bajri and juari stalks no price in villages. At headquarters it ranges between 2 to 4 annas a bundle, firewood no value in villages. At headquarters between 5 to 10 annas a maund.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. There is no market value of milk, stalks and firewood, excepting at taluka headquarter stations and Nasarpur, Matiari and Tando Jam.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. About Rs. 10 a day for all.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Almost all the perishable things, as meat, eggs, fowls, milk, etc., are supplied by zamindars or on their behalf by their agents or tapedars to establishments free of cost. Where in the villages of the camp there is a big zamindar he supplies them, but in villages where there is no big zamindar the tapedar goes into several neighbouring villages and collects these things from petty landholders and procures them for the camp. The other articles, as flour, rice, ghee, etc., are supplied by the village modi on payment.

38. How are they paid for?

38. On bills presented by the banias, the zamindar or the tapedar.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. Absolutely no guarantee that the money reaches the sources supplying them. The zamindar usually does not bring these things from his own house. He also collects them from several haris of his and from neighbouring petty zamindars. I do not think he must be distributing the money amongst so many men. My idea is that the zamindars also do not get the money in several cases. Probably they return the money paid to them. In this division and I have also seen in Tando division in two taluks of which I have served, this year that at several camps the establishments including peons get cash payment from the tapedars from 1 rupee to 4 annas a day each member according to his importance for defraying these expenses and banias' and zamindars' bills were paid from these amounts.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. I pay for all the supplies for which there is a market at the market rates, but I cannot guarantee whether the supplies shown in my bills are truly shown. They may be underdrawn in quantity and in quality of articles. The prices may also be inadequate.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. By the zamindar of course if it is greater and sometimes by the tapedar.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. Rasai fund is only maintained at the headquarters of the talukas for expenses incurred there. The excess in village camps is not met from this rasai fund. No rasai fund is maintained by tapedars in villages for expenses on camps there. At headquarters rasai fund is maintained to which all tapedars and sometimes zamindars also contribute in proportion to the prosperity of their tapas and holdings. The controlling authority is the mukhtiarkar. The accounts are kept usually by headquarter station tapedar and in some places by a committee of 2 or 3 tapedars.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. I pay nothing for water jars or cots, no other furniture is supplied to me or to my establishments. I pay nothing for materials supplied to build stables.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?

44. I use very few of vegetables grown in gardens attached to the several bungalows, P. W. D. or district ones, and pay nothing when I use any vegetables grown there.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. I mainfain irreducible minimum establishment for my private use. Official:—The number of peons cannot be reduced. In tour, inspection staff, i.e., head munshi, judicial munshi must accompany me to village camps besides the typist. The rest can stay at the headquarter stations.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. The period of touring of a divisional officer cannot be curtailed, but it should be left to him to do as much touring in a year as he considers necessary, not that when he finds it unnecessary to move out he should be called upon to explain why he was not able to pass full seven months out.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. In the Sukkur district where I had received this circular every one had found it impracticable. The things could not but be left to go on in much the same way as before. In the first year of the circular tapedars procured things from several villagers and to keep up the show allowed a zamindar to produce them.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. My modification is that it should be cancelled, as its working is not likely to relieve the zamindar but put him in additional trouble and expenses. We cannot get contractors and cannot get zamindars whom we can hold responsible for procuring supplies in villages. For towns all things are possible, but in villages things, as eggs, milk, fowls, meat, &c., must require to be collected from several different places and men. The zamindar cannot collect them because everybody wont obey him, therefore he must have a tapedar to help him in this work. No contractor can undertake to procure these supplies some of which he must have to send for from long distances as from the headquarters of the districts on account of his ignorance of several villages and sort of the people living near the camps where he can collect them, and no officer is prepared to pay to him the prices that he would have to charge for several things supplied on account of his having spent so much in sending for them from the headquarters.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. It is not possible to find a contractor for each taluka or a division in place of tapedars and zamindars because the requirements will not be so many as to keep him engaged or pay his costs. I have had no contractor to give him the regular and timely intimation of my requirements. It is not possible in the case of a divisional officer on whom calls are sometimes too diverse and sudden to make him to keep his programme of tour in which several camps might have to be abandoned altogether.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. We had local orders in the Sukkur district issued by the Collector, but zamindars could not help the mukhtiarkars to give effect to them. I had tried to act up to them with the result that menial establishment threatened to leave service.

51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any others of zamindars?

51. I used to receive several dhalis but I have brought them down now to one or two a year by making all my donors to take an oath never to repeat bringing them to me, drawing their attention to the orders of

Government against the continuance of this practice. I do sometimes receive shot game not procurable in the bazaar. I never receive any sheep nor any kind of other present, excepting only some vegetables from my subordinates.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such 'Dhalis' and sheep?

52. The average cost of dhali varies with the dignity of the officers and the donors. It varies from 5 to 20 rupees. Sheep also cost from 8 to 12 rupees.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. The orders of Government are to refuse these dhalis and I have tried to do so. The two or three dhalis in a year which I have allowed to be received are from people whom I could not send away disappointed on account of their first offence or on account of the trouble they would have been put to to take them back to their homes at a considerable distance.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Lapo is derived from lap meaning a handful of grain or any other produce of a field recovered by a zamindar at the time of batai and separated from the whole heap before effecting division of it between himself and his haris, for expenses expected to be incurred by him in providing rasai for Government officials encamping in his village and paying anagi to village officers and to measurers. Rasai is an institution of very olden times in Sind pending for its existence on the lapo receipts. All expenses connected with entertainment of Government touring officers during their stays in deras or kharas (harvest floors) for the purpose of recovering Government share of produce when the land tax was levied in kind used to be defrayed from it. When the British Government came land revenue commenced to be recovered in cash. The deh kharch lap the zamindars recover up to this day, from which they pay anagi to their tapedars and contribute towards providing comforts of officers encamping in their villages.

The anagi to tapedars and free supply of labour to officers by the zamindars appear to have been acquiesced in by present Government is evident from the fact that the tapedars and their kotars were started in service on Rs. 15 and Rs. 4 a month, though both were required to keep powers and that the divisional officers were given only three peons, though it must have been apparent that they could neither pitch tents by themselves, nor put camping grounds right without the help of chheras, and their pays were fixed at Rs. 7 a month, and which could not at any time be a living wage for any intelligent man. The anagi has gone on increasing on account of the increases in calls on tapedars and inability of zamindars to provide the above such things, as meat, fowls, eggs, milk, etc., which now in several places the tapedars could only collect from petty zamindars. The rate of anagi now varies from 4 annas an acre to 6 annas an acre, as the tapedars provide all cash payments at considerably increased rates from it and also because the value of a rupee has so much depreciated. Up to now in most places milk, meat, etc., are supplied gratis by zamindars who, like the practice of the old, collect these things from neighbouring petty peasants and haris and spend nothing on them from their pockets. The cry is that they should not pay the higher rates of anagi in addition to stuffs which tapedars used to pay for from their anagis before. In some places I have seen the tapedars spend very little on rasai, but pocket the whole of the anagi receipts amount which they recover at higher rates, paying from it only a fraction which they spend in corrupting the head office establishment and keeping pleased their mukhtiarkars.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. Anagi, nuhrano and rasai.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. By the tapedars with the help or connivance of mukhtiarkars from the zamindars for pocketing most of the amount and spending a part in bribing the inspection staff, menials and peons, though it is recovered on the pretext that it will be spent in making rasai of officers.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. Anagi at collection time per assessmen, nuhrano at the time of delivering ijazatnama per acre and rasai at the time of camp of officers up to one rupee a number cultivated.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. Tapedar from his receipts of lapo, anagi and nuhrano contributes only a share and that to meet the expenses incurred at the taluka headquarters under the direction of mukhtiarkar for making up the deficiency in the amount of bills which oftentimes contain prices of stuff supplied to establishment and menial servants and in paying tips to the private servants of officers.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. The mukhtiarkar is the director of rasai fund, accounts of which are kept by tapedar or committee of tapedars.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. About 10 per cent.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. None of three kinds of lapo that are mentioned above is levied for particular favours in the matter of land revenue, but such an unauthorized exaction is an impossibility in the Irrigation, Police and Forest Departments, in which only an extortion must succeed.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. The mukhtiarkars and tapedars are concerned to send away inspection staff pleased who have in their power to make things uncomfortable for them, making too much exaggeration of small mistakes they find in their work.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. When zamindars make arrangements for provision, they deduct the amounts spent by them from tapedar's anagis. This is what I learnt at Mirpur and that has been yet the only result of circular of 1914.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. I have not seen them.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. It can be prevented by mukhtiarkars if they seriously take to doing it but they must have to cease to depend for all their expenses of living and luxuries and those incurred by them for doing khushamad with the members of head officers on tapedars.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Labour secured free of payment on adequate payment or on full payment through a zamindar.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Mostly their haris and other vagabonds infesting their village, whom they can secure by threat of sending them as badmashes.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. All kinds of labour with hand or with spades and axes.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Those who do hold lands are bound to obey such calls made on them by their zamindars.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. Some of the zamindars feed the chheras; others do not do so, but officials only pay them when they can get their wages from Government.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. No labourer can be secured in villages without the hand of zamindar, because understanding has been established in the minds of people of chher class that they would not get any return for their labour.

72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?

72. No.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. Moral bindings for supplying to revenue officers. I do not know of any law under which we can compel them to supply labour.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. Seris to some zamindars but they have ceased to be an inducement to make zamindars help us on account of them.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. For pitching and unpitching tents and clearing camping ground of jungle and levelling it and for bringing water and fuel and grass and during night keep a watch over camp.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. About 5.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps ?

77. 15 more.

78. Whence do you obtain them ?

78. From the village through the tapedar or zamindar.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?

79. We do not pay them anything and zamindars only feed those who live at a great distance from camp.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?

80. Eight annas a labourer. Tents could be pitched by paying two annas each to 20 labourers, this would be repeated when striking tents. The total cost about 6 rupees a camp. No. The zamindars alone can produce the labourers.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase, while on tour, of your own private and official establishment ?

81. They will be a further drag on the rasai.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?

82. I do not do any shikar.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

85. Nothing speculative can be said. The repairs depend on for what officers' roads have to be fitted and the damage done to them unexpectedly.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

86. The zamindars feed some of them who cannot go to their houses on account of long distance.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

87. The zamindars' men with spades and baskets.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

88. Zamindars, if they do not get any payment from Government, feed them.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

89. No interference.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards ?

90. Not much interference. We do not employ any beldar but zamindars' local village haris.

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders ?

91. I do not know this.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government ?

92. I do not consider the chher system should be suppressed, but we should pay the chheras at four annas a day from contingent expenditure.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. KUNDANSING LAHORI.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

Lapo is collected for the express object of rasai. The mukhtiarkars therefore consider it legitimate to call on the tapedar to pay a part of their lapo towards rasai. A part of lapo is pooled in each taluka and formed into a rasai fund. The head munshi acts as a referee in the absence of the mukhtiarkar. Not more than 10% of lapo would be paid into the rasai fund. The tapedar makes a separate levy for rasai away from headquarters. The big zamindar will undertake to pay all the expenses. If there is no big zamindar, then the money is levied in cash according to the cultivation of the respective zamindars.

The expenses of a Commissioner's camp are very much increased, when he is away from headquarters owing to the carriage of things to his camp. It might be Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 for one camp lasting for 15 days, for sending out supplies, telegrams, post, etc.

To the Chairman—

I was asked to contribute towards the expenses and was told that 13 carriages were kept in attendance every day. It might have been exaggerated by the mukhtiarkar; but I paid the contribution as requested, as a zamindar. That would make up the expenses of Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 for one camp. I did not see the 13 carriages, but I believed the mukhtiarkar.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I have no idea of the total expenses of the Commissioner's camp when I made rasai for the Commissioner's camp. I was fortunate enough to have a big zamindar who attended to all the things.

I made rasai for the Collector's camp 15 years ago, I can't remember what the total cost was.

I have heard of kilokhorani, but it has been exaggerated. As far as I know it is taken by the jamadar of tent-pitchers. I don't believe that it is levied by the butlers. The fee paid for kilokhorani would be about Rs. 15 in my time. I have not heard of payments of Rs. 100.

The mukhtiarkars believe that they will get better promotions, if they make better rasai. They also think that if they don't make rasai, they will get it hot from the establishments.

I have known of many instances in which tapedars and zamindars in charge of rasai have been ill-treated for not properly attending to the rasai. I have not heard of any case of insults to mukhtiarkars. The ill-treatment has been administered by the menials. A small chhera might get his beard pulled, but not a zamindar. They are also beaten.

An attempt was made to introduce the new system in 1914, but it proved impracticable. Mr. Moysey issued a circular that a contracting zamindar should be found to carry out the orders. I was at that time serving in the Sukkur district under Mr. Moysey. The attempt was not successful, as the zamindars were not willing. The zamindars thought that they would not be able to collect the necessary supplies of eggs, etc., as the tapedar could. They refused because they thought that they would not get paid and because they were not able to procure the supplies and also they thought that it was below their dignity to do the work. The payment for the supplies did not matter much with them, as they would be able to get it from the tapedar's anagi. They would deduct from the anagi that they would pay to the tapedar.

I have not actually seen the accounts of the rasai fund, but I suppose they must be kept at the headquarters.

The chheras called for pitching tents are different from those called for helping in camps.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HAYTER.

1. Name.	1. O. C. G. Hayter, Esq.
2. Appointment.	2. Superintendent, Police.
3. Headquarters.	3. Hyderabad.
4. Length of service.	4. 21 years, 5 months.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. December 1896 to March 1901; September 1914 to April 1918.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour?	6. Hyderabad district.
7. What is the period of your tour?	7. November 1st to March, April, May (ad lib.).
8. What private servants accompany you on tour?	8. Alone, one; with family, half a dozen.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour?	9. Reader (rank, sub-inspector, police), 2 clerks, one office orderly; (alone), 3 orderlies; with family, 6 orderlies.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?	10. I take a cow (milk and butter), flour (maida), potatoes, Europe stores, kerosene oil, groceries—others none that I know.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?	11. I require fowls, eggs, vegetables if possible, cow's food, rice, a few groceries, fuel and fodder; they require ordinary food, fuel—2 sowars require fodder.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour?	12. A quantity of ordinary camp furniture of all kinds.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps?	13. Water jars only. Orderlies and servants get cots. I don't say they need them.
14. What tents do you take on tour?	14. Government tents (two large ones, office tent, 3 rowtis).
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?	15. Rowtis, musafirkhanas—spare room in police thanas.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. If no bungalow stables, matting landhis.
17. What records do you take on tour?	17. Crime records (current), service sheets, registers, a few miscellaneous files.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?	18. Office building at bungalows, musafirkhanas, police thanas or office tents.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?	19. At bungalows, none except carrying supplies. At other camps tent-pitching, etc., clearing according to ground.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. Fit for horses and camels only. A bar to efficient control of police.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. Local boards I believe or zamindars' agency.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?	22. No.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?	23. I have in 1917-18 made only a very intermittent tour to a few talukas, hence engaged locally; but ordinarily would engage for season.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?	24. By police sowars.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. Police stations and sometimes outposts.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. Zamindars send men to prepare when necessary.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. All, to the best of my belief.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. A few.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. Most, vide information in Collector's and Executive Engineer's offices.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. Chowkidar only and a mali where there is a garden.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. The provision of cash or supplies either direct or through zamindars by subordinate officials to their superiors, superiors' staff, clerks, servants, etc.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. Daily bazaar in Hyderabad Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8-0, this gives some idea.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. I cannot work this out—no time—say, 10—15 men, their appetites differ.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Grain and rice, I cannot say exactly, but my bills show about gazetted bazaar rates. Eggs 2—3 annas a dozen as a rule, fowls 2—4 annas, and rest unknown. Fuel free at some places, at others 4 annas a day; fodder free as a rule.

NOTE.—Provided camels permanently engaged, fuel and fodder can be brought from where it has no market value even to the largest towns. No reason why one should not do this even to headquarters for personal use.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. I should say obviously none, on account of bad communications. Proof:—In Hala taluka large areas full of fuel allowed free. In Hyderabad an important police force literally losing its physical strength on account of dear fuel and less money to spend on food.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. I cannot even make a guess, but it could be paid out of the rasai of big inspecting officials without feeling the difference.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Actually various people on the land; or wandering low tribes with poultry; or banias. Collected and sent to camp by sub-inspector.

38. How are they paid for?

38. I pay for my own requirements. The establishment actually hands over money. Where it all goes eventually is like the problem of another life. It may come back part of the way, or be returned.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. None. I am perfectly convinced that it is retained, except banias' bills, or repaid.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. I consider I pay fairly but what does it matter if it does not end up in the right place? I apologize for asking a question myself.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. By the poor producers every time; zamindars rob them as much as any one.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. No rasai fund. Police don't need funds; zamindars give freely to them, wanting to be in their good books; others think it best not to refuse. I have no dealings with tapedars or mukhtiarkars.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. No.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

44. Yes, occasionally. No payment. The malis understand they should give them to officials. They sell to the public.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. No, mine is very small. If bungalows are everywhere, I need not take so many orderlies.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. Not without improved communications. That is the whole crux of this question.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. I started by trying to work with contractors. I found them to be such dummies and I was so ridiculously fooled (temporarily) on two or three occasions that I got disgusted and gave it up. I found 'em out later on.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. I think if regular traders were appointed for all camps in certain areas, they might co-operate and succeed; but the fight against the army of free-fooders would be very hard and will last more than 3 years, anyway. These men or their employers must be substantial and be given every access to, help, and protection by higher officers.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. Practically never, D. S. P.'s programme never holds good for more than a week or so.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. I think one. Will enquire when office opens.

51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. Subordinate officers—rigorously never. From zamindars who are really county families—yes.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such 'Dhalis' and sheep?

52. I cannot estimate an average. A few rupees, I suppose. Dead game have no value away from market.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. I cannot remember exactly. I don't think I have departed from them much. Subordinates of a certain type worry very hard for acceptance, and one has to be brusque before they stop it.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. A regular levy of fixed illegal fees or percentages.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. Strictly none in police. Illegal gratification is fortuitous.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Never, as I understand the term.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

57 to 61. I don't understand the term unauthorized lapo. I did not know that any lapo is authorized. There is no regular levy, collection of fees, or rates fixed in police affairs, except it may be in certain offices which act as revenue collecting agencies in large cities (licence fees, etc., etc.), or in summons, warrants, fine-recovery duties. Even so, speaking generally, the taking of illegal gratification depends on the individual character of policemen or those with whom they deal, and largely on supervision. There is no system managed and taken part in by the subordinate agency collectively, in which all must join or the system be thrown out. It is less hopeless of cure and far more healthy than the regular lapo. It does not discredit Government so much, although there is open scandal, which is suppressed in case of levies. People know that it is the fault of individual policemen. The other they take to be part of sarkari bandobast. They see that a policeman need not extort, but the other thing is departmental extortion, inevitable.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. Again all is individual; sub-inspectors gratify inspecting clerks, etc., on their own.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. I should say, increased.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. None.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. I am pessimistic about it. I don't believe any laws or regulations can prevent it (with reference to regular levies). However, better pay and stern discipline may effect good. If the expectation of resulting increased revenue is high, it will not only be equitable but profitable to improve position of staff and increase control.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Compulsory labour.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. They are tenants of landowners, or failing that, any one who can be roped in without any danger of a row.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. As regards police, carrying baggage, making landhis, pitching tents. Shikar—I generally find at shikar places a number of men obviously well accustomed to and keen on shikar. Absurd to say forced in their case.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. I believe so.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. Officials usually pay for shikar beaters, and often tip for other services. I believe no one else ever pays.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. I should say there was plenty. Men loafing in every small town or village in large numbers; obviously working men.

72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. I have never met any. Possibly hard to recognize them.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. I say that they are, absolutely. Otherwise irrigation, the only support of life in Sind, cannot, when breaches occur, be carried on.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. Only in a few places; it amounts to nothing. I regard this as the greatest police reform required, apart from any question of chher. It will level up Sind with the Deccan.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. Vide 19. Apart from that, occasionally a few beaters for shikar.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. No whole-time men.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. About half a dozen. None, if a police working party is available.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. The sub-inspector sends them.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. I do occasionally, not regularly; usually I don't see them. If I do, I tip them at times.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

80. I shouldn't do it. I should make orderlies and a few local off-duty men do the work. Merely a light fatigue. This answers 81.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. Subordinates get men for me from zamindars or zamindars bring them direct.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. Two to four annas a shoot according to time and labour. I do not usually pay men when big zamindars invite me to shoot. This is only rarely.

Addendum.—By a shoot I mean 2—4 hours in morning or evening. I did tip a big zamindar's tenants recently. He was so indignant that I doubt if I did the men a benefit.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. Never.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

85—86. None, vide 22.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

87—88. I cannot say.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. In individual cases, I quite believe it causes hardship. Loafers are left, while others are called away from work.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

90. I have no information.

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?

91. None.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. It cannot be done; the danger in case of breaches is far too great. The Engineer must be able to get labour promptly, and not spend days while the country gets submerged. But it ought to be paid for fairly. It is very valuable labour to Sind. With roads too, I think that compulsory work by available casuals is good for all, but pay them well.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HAYTER.

To the Chairman—

I think that on the whole, cots are desirable for menials and orderly establishment on tour.

I think better communication is advantageous for the police. I suppose that none of the roads are really fit for motor cars. It would be an enormous assistance to the police, if they were fit, and they were maintained for police motor cars.

My daily expenses in the district would be less than those in Hyderabad. The charges are less for ordinary supplies in the district.

I do sometimes use my camel, when not otherwise engaged, in fetching fodder and fuel. Firewood I think at one time ran up to Rs. 1-6-0 a maund. It has generally been understood that the price was improperly run up by the forest contractors. We have karbi for police horses in Hyderabad. The price of karbi has also run high. The karbi is brought in by anyone. There is no regular contractor. The difficulties are those of transport and communication which prevent an ample supply of karbi coming into Hyderabad from the surrounding district.

My establishment is a very small one and the aggregate expenses would not be very large. It would not make much difference generally to the rasai of touring officers. If the zamindars have to make rasai, they take things from the haris, and they don't pay the haris.

The malis sell the vegetables to the public, but they retain the money for themselves.

I have to go at once to visit the scenes of important cases.

I referred to the fee probably levied by the subordinate staff on the licenses of hackney carriages and sometimes in warrant and summons cases.

I imagine the policemen engaged on investigation usually get their supplies free, I should say, not as a matter of force, but as a matter of custom.

I think lapo has increased owing to the strict supervision of rasai in kind. The subordinate staff want to make up in money what they don't get in kind. I think there has been a great decrease in rasai due partly to the rules of 1914 and partly to the general efforts made to suppress it.

I couldn't say if men loafing about the towns were actually haris or not. There is sometimes a very heavy influx of people from Rajputana when times are bad in Rajputana. There is a certain number of settled tribes generally of a criminal disposition, who are available for labour. Recently, there have been crimes in the Tando division by a people called Bhils, which would indicate want of employment. I have served for 4 years in the Ahmednagar district where there are regular mahars and patel watans for the service of Government and the community.

It requires about 10 or a dozen men to pitch one big tent. It would take a couple of hours to pitch a big tent with the help of chheras.

The zamindars sometimes give chher for shikar.

It is the practice in the district to have police modis at police stations, and possibly also at outposts. They supply the police regularly with food, grain and groceries on payment. These modis advance the police money sometimes for private and official purposes, for instance when the police run out of their permanent advance. The modi will also pay the police for travelling expenses of men sent up by railway. Now that has been stopped by the introduction of travelling warrants. They are signed by the officer in charge of the police station. I should consider it worth trying to find banias, the bigger the better, to undertake to provide supplies for the camps of all the touring officers. They should be entirely independent of the subordinates of any department. The Police modi who provides the supplies makes a substantial profit. It is not, therefore, necessary to give him any annual subsidy for the work.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I refer to the gazetted rates as market rates outside Hyderabad. The sub-inspector prepares my bills. The gazetted rates are drawn up by the mukhtiarkars. I can't say how far they agree with the actual rates. There have been complaints about the gazetted rates of grain being low and thus affecting the grain compensation allowance. If that is so, my bills will be undercharged. I have served in the Sukkur and the Upper Sind Frontier districts. I believe there is some regular levy for hackney carriages in big places by the carriage clerk or any one who has control over the hackney carriages. I couldn't say the exact rate.

To the Chairman—

The carriage clerk is paid out of the conveyance fund. He is not a regularly enrolled policeman.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I think the policemen who go on investigation are fed out of fear, it is really more a matter of custom. I think they are generally fed by the local wadero—not necessarily by the complainant. There are generally a number of zamindars called for the purpose of investigation. There are complaints that the investigating party is living on the complainant. Some investigations take many days. The substance of the complaints is that it is a tax on the complainant.

To the Chairman—

I don't think an increase of allowance would stop it; it is really a matter of discipline and supervision.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The policemen get no special allowance for investigation within their own jurisdiction. It might be possible to reduce the number of policemen who go on an investigation. The persons of the party run up to 5 or 6, or even sometimes a dozen. Pagis and witnesses, I think, also have to be fed by the zamindar. The total might run up to 2 dozen. If the investigation is successful, there is less possibility of any complaint. If it is not successful, they are more likely to make complaints. There have been such complaints.

It would be necessary to have permanent metalled roads and proper bridges to extend the motor traffic to the districts. Temporary repairs to roads for motor cars would not last long; they would not be of any particular use to the District Superintendent of Police.

I have come to know of a certain amount of rasai for the Revenue Department in the course of my duties as head of the police, but I have not heard before of regular fees for driving in the first peg of the tent. I have heard that butlers do very well. I have not heard that bills were prepared any way differently from other departments.

I was on the railway in 1914. I have only tried the contract system since my coming here a year ago in November last. I don't think that the rules of 1914 have really made any difference. I don't think the contractors under the system are really contractors. I have nothing to do with the tapedars. I deal with the sub-inspectors as regards the rasai.

My servant was a Chhatri of the North and at one camp told me that the contractor brought back the amount of the bill.

I don't think that the contracting zamindar system will work.

I think serious attempts have been made to put down rasai, but there is much other work to be done. Serious steps are necessary, such as punishment and dismissal of those who are proved to be extortionate. You will have to make other arrangements for providing supplies before you can remove the hand of both tapedar and sub-inspector from this matter.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I think it would be possible to find a bania with a subsidy of Rs. 200 a month to provide supplies to all officers in the talukas. Exceptions will have to be made in emergent cases.

The gazetted rates are only for the grains. There are no gazetted rates for fowls and eggs.

I can't specifically say about the Public Works Department malis, how far they sell the produce. Probably the control is better in the Public Works Department.

I think unmetalled roads would be sufficiently good, if they could be properly preserved. I have seen parts of Hala roads. It would be quite possible to use them for motor cars. There are some such roads here and there.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

It is generally in serious cases like those of dacoities that the party would be one dozen or so. A great many men are required for carrying messages and for calling witnesses and so forth. If the dacoits are arrested, a number of men are required to guard them. I said 4 or 6 men are required in the ordinary cattle thefts. The general crime is cattle-lifting; dacoities are rare. The police party has to move from place to

place as it finds a clue and at times it has to remain at one place. The element of fear in the matter of rasai is less in the Revenue Department and among respectable zamindars.

I think 99 per cent. of the people would vote for the retention of the outposts for the purposes of hue and cry and the suppression of cattle-lifting and crime generally. It is essential that they should be inspected by the District Superintendent of Police in the interests of discipline and administration.

To the Chairman—

I believe that the Collector of Sukkur used to motor to Shikarpur. The road is bad. Mr. Murlidhar used to come and go from Shikarpur to Sukkur on his motor car. I have ridden in his motor car on that road and it is bad. The Commissioner used to use his motor car in the Hyderabad district. I can't say personally about the state of the roads. I couldn't say whether there were any special repairs to the roads for the Commissioner's car. He motored from Tando Mahomed Khan to Sujawal in the Karachi district. I only know the roads in this district. The roads are decidedly bad for motor cars. It is a very considerable risk to take motor cars now along the ordinary roads.

Copy of letter No. 872, dated 4th March 1918, from O. C. G. Hayter, Esq., District Superintendent of Police, Hyderabad, to the District Magistrate, Hyderabad.

I have the honour to address you on the question of rasai, etc., as I see it and its bearing on the efficiency and public reputation of the Police Department.

Rasai, etc.

2. To begin with I would say that the present efforts to cope with the situation for the most part fail, because the very persons on which all reliance must be placed for its success, the contractors (where these exist), not only do not like the system, but positively detest it, and there is no reason to suppose that they will like it any more as time goes on. There is no reality or natural play of supply and demand in the arrangement.

3. The difficulty is really not so much with officers themselves as with their servants, clerks, orderlies and subordinates. The ideal system is that all these people should be able to go and buy from purveyors without having inspectors, sub-inspectors, etc., leaving police work aside in order to run about and feed them. It is, in short, a question of improving supply, and of lessening demand by having as few hungry mouths as possible wandering round the district.

4. The demoralising effect is very obvious when one sees a responsible officer of good family spoken to about supplies in a harsh, patronising or over-familiar manner by a domestic servant or orderly of no merit or position. There is no question but that this must embitter some subordinate officers and deter some people from taking up Government service. Again the effect of the present system on party men is very bad. Apart from tent-pitching and luggage handling at intervals and a little message work, they laze about and wait with their mouths open to be fed by the local police. They become helpless and without interest in the district, mere peons. A senior armed constable, a Panjabi, who had done 9 touring seasons in this district and was highly commended by officers, asked to be made a sowar for district work. I found that he could not speak Sindhi intelligibly and really knew nothing of the places among which he had travelled. Yet this man is supposed to be a police constable and is paid a salary as such.

5. I consider that Indian subordinates of all classes ought to be able, at all moderately large centres, to fend for themselves. It would do them all a great deal of good. The requirement for officers may be roughly divided into—

(1) Bania's shop stuff, including horses' grain.

(2) Fowls and eggs.

(3) Milk.

(4) Fodder and fuel.

What I suggest for (1) is that there should be for certain areas (as small as possible) a regularly licensed shopkeeper who would undertake to supply requirements actually in the camps of officers in the area. A shopkeeper in such a position would be continually in touch with officers: he would be always having opportunities, if officers treated him properly as an ally and helper, to represent difficulties and requirements, not only his own, but those of all the traders in the locality. He would thus acquire

influence at court and a position. I believe this consideration would attract banias, if people endeavouring to ride them off (as many would) were carefully watched and dealt with.

(2) The proper supply of fowls and eggs at fair local rates paid to the actual sellers would involve measures securing at the same time a second useful result to the people; namely, an improvement in the poultry-raising industry in rural tracts. I suggest here again something like a license for supplying camps in a small area. I suggest free grant of plots of land, and as far as possible timber and other material for something as near as possible to civilised poultry-runs; also pecuniary advances, advice and instruction. The fact that an average good English hen lays about 200 large eggs in a year to the jungly moorghies' 32 small ones, is not altogether a trivial fact, nor one incapable of being applied to the welfare of villagers in this country. There again, small land owners taking up this sort of supply would naturally receive special attention and protection, and this would encourage others.

(3) Milk is sometimes only obtainable from people who can only sell it by transgressing what is equivalent to religion in their minds. As a rule however the best and safest plant is either to keep milch cattle permanently or to hire them and feed them in the camp.

(4) Fuel and fodder where it is obtainable from Government forest or waste land should be allowed to officers' camps free, the officer retaining his own cutter. Where these are valuable products raised on private land, there is the best opportunity for establishing real local contractors for these products only, either together or separately. The Collector should sanction rates for each taluka monthly as for transport.

(5) I do not say that all these things can be done at once. They would, especially as regards the poultry, take a long time to develop. Poultry however need not concern clerks, orderlies, etc., they can exist without them. Some beginning is advisable. The goal should be an absolute rigid prohibition to local subordinates from taking any action whatever in connection with supplies to clerks, orderlies, servants, etc., except for merely instructing licensees and contractors to attend camp and receive orders for supply. Before this can be done a willing class of licensed purveyors must be created.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MONTGOMERY.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. H. Montgomery, Esq.

2. Appointment. — 2. Manager, Encumbered Estates.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Hyderabad.

4. Length of service. — 4. 9½ years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 9½ years, Assistant Collector in Tatta, Hala, Sehwan, Shikarpur and Tando. Manager for last 14 months.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. The whole of Sind.

7. What is the period of your tour? — 7. 1st November to 30th May.

8. What private servants accompany you on tour? — 8. Butler, chokra, syce, cook, bhangi, dhobi.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? — 9. 4 munshis, 5 peons and khalasis.

10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? — 10. I cannot answer for the establishment without inquiry. I think none. Myself:—Tinned goods, flour, potatoes, sodawater and spirits, &c., European groceries (including sugar), sometimes butter and horse's food except karbi. My servants:—None of their own.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 11. Myself:—Milk, chickens, karbi, sometimes butter, firewood, a little straw, ghi, spices, eggs. I cannot answer for the establishment without inquiry.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? — 12. I can give a complete list upon inquiry at my camp. The kinds are:—Chairs, carpets, tables, baths, a bed, cooking utensils, 3 tents, official records, bath-room furniture.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? — 13. Cots for the peons and munshis, I cannot say how many are generally obtained without inquiry. A few chatties.

14. What tents do you take on tour? — 14. 1, 16 × 16 regulation; 2 minimum Swiss cotages 12 × 12; a large peons' rowti, and 3 small servants' rowtis and a rowti of my own.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? — 15. Most district and engineering bungalows have servants' quarters. Otherwise, rowtis for the servants and peons. Establishment:—Some bungalows have quarters, otherwise, generally musafirkhanas or tapedar's dero.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? — 16. When I camp in tents, a landhi of straw. Bungalows have stables.

17. What records do you take on tour? — 17. (1) Claims branch statistical records and claim records of proceedings and attached correspondence (if any) for perhaps 3 years past. I cannot give the weight or the number of trunks without inquiry.

(2) Current correspondence.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? — 18. Many bungalows have an office room. Otherwise, a tent.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 19. Six or 8 men to pitch and strike tents, if I camp in tents. Otherwise, a man or 2 men to fetch water, when water supply is at a distance.

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? — 20. The same as the condition of the roads in Sind: moderate to unspeakable.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? — 21. This answer will not be required from me.

22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? — 22. No.

23. What are you means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?

23. Bullock-carts locally engaged for the march. Camels, when carts cannot be had.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?

24. The ordinary post as far as taluka headquarters (where I most generally am); from there a man sent by the mukhtiarkar.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. The means by which local supplies are caused to arrive at the camp.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. My own:—1 chicken, 1 to 1½ seers milk, 6 eggs, ¼ lb. butter, 1 bundle firewood, karbi (quantity not ascertained), petty bazaar groceries.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. I cannot answer without inquiry.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. They vary greatly through Sind, in my experience. Firewood may be as much as 10 annas a bundle. Fowls may be 8 annas. Bajri and jowari vary immensely according to character of season. Milk may be 2½ annas a seer. Eggs vary from 6 annas to 12 annas per dozen.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Until quite recently there was no value for stalks; but I suspect that there is now. For wood of any kind there certainly must be now; but until this now there was practically none. Milk has little or no market value away from large villages, except in regions where ghi is manufactured and largely bought in by banias.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. I cannot say concerning my establishment. My servants and myself, perhaps Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2. But my tour includes both district headquarters and remote villages, and it is hard to strike an average.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Brought to camp by the local zamindar's agent (kamdar or ám-mukhtiar) where a local zamindar has accepted the duty; elsewhere, by the contractor's man. Where there is no zamindar and no contractor, by the tapedar—by haris, he commands.

In large villages and small towns, most of the supplies are bought in the bazaar by these agencies. In other places, they are collected from among the haris round about.

38. How are they paid for?

38. Ordinarily in my presence, to the kamdar or the contractor's man, on a bill presented in detail.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. None. But where there is a contractor, it is highly improbable.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. My actual payments are on the average nearly up to my estimate of Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2. Perhaps they may be Re. 1-8-0 to 1-12-0. But where I camp with a zamindar of standing, the bills tend to be between Re. 1 and Rs. 1-8-0. On the other hand, I have had to pay over Rs. 3 in a headquarter town.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. I think the excess, where any, is borne by the haris. They get paid for what they contribute at low rates. But where it is a bazar bania, I think what I pay is what he asks.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. I have not lately heard of the survival of any rasai fund, but I am now out of touch.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. No.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

44. Yes. I ordered payment to be made. There is a fixed charge of 4 annas in some districts, in P. W. D. gardens. No doubt vegetables are often obtained from local fund gardens without payment. The taluka establishments regard these gardens as an annuity provided for them by Government.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. No.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. No. I can hardly get round as it is.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. I think the tapedars are now absolutely out of itexcept:—

(*a*) Where no zamindar has volunteered and no contractor has come forward.

(*b*) In remote tracts, such as the Kohistan.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. There are contractors for many groups of villages. It would probably not be possible to find any more; it is an unattractive job. The desirable modification is to increase the number of volunteeer zamindars; but it cannot be done. The relation between zamindars and haris has become less confident now-a-days.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. I ordinarily notify my camps in each taluka to the mukhtiarkar at least 3 weeks in advance.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders

50. No.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. Yes; vegetables, fruit and shikar from big zamindars. I have received one sheep during my service.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. Perhaps a rupee for dhalis, when they are big.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. To receive nothing but home-grown fruit and vegetables. The orders are impracticable, because fruit is not grown in most zamindaris in Sind. Even vegetables are only grown where there are wells or wangis.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. A forced levy by subordinate officials from the cultivator for service rendered, real or imaginary.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. (i) Tapedar's lapo on:—(*a*) Serial number taken up; (*b*) serial number cultivated; (*c*) karios sanctioned or measured; (*d*) measurement work in general; (*e*) on land revenue assessment credited; (*f*) on preparation of papers for mutation of occupancy entries.

(ii) Munshis' lapo on land grants, and every kind of revenue business.

(iii) Patewallas' lapo on petitions presented.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. See 55 above. From the zamindar or petitioner. On consideration of:—(1) aiding him; (2) not oppressing him; (3) giving access to the sahib; (4) and in order to keep the body and soul of the tapedar, munshi or patewalla together.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. I can give some instances:—

A rupee per number taken up to the tapedar.

An anna per acre (jarib) on area cultivated, to the tapedar.

But tapedars vary greatly in their demands, and some ask much more.

I have no knowledge of rates of lapo levied per camp.

Munshis have no fixed rates. I have known of a head munshi taking a half share in khas mokal land granted by his office.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. I do not know; but I think not now.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. I do not know.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo,' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue irrigation, police and forests?

61. Vide answer to 55. I have come to know (as Manager) of heavy sums paid to P. W. D. subordinates for new karios—several hundreds of rupees in one case.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. I do not know; but revenue jamabandi scrutiny is done under the Assistant Commissioner's head munshi by almost the whole taluka and village staff, one munshi or tapedar scrutinizing the work of another, so there cannot be much leverage.

63. Has the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. I should say, not the levy of moderate lapo; the levy of excessive lapo, perhaps. But it has certainly been affected by the increasing scarcity of money.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. I do not think that any kind of legislation can affect the matter. It rests entirely with the rayat.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Forced labour for Government emergencies.

67. Who are the "Chheras"

67. Haris, generally.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Pitch tents, mend roads, stop breaches.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. No. But the haris are given numbers under the implied relationship of a feudal tradition, which is dying out.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. Not that I know of. I have never heard such an item mentioned in batai.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. For urgent P. W. D. works; for measurement of their own lands; in the investigation of crime.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. Some police patallies, of recent origin=some seris.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. Pitching tents; carrying water.

76. How many labourers do your require daily in camp?

76. One or two, if water supply is distant.

77. How many more do your require when pitching or striking camp?

77. Six or eight.

78. Whence do your obtain them ?

78. The tapedar, or my overseer, obtains them.

79. Do your pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?

79. No.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?

80. Pitching or striking tents only takes about an hour. Perhaps a rupee. The contractor could not supply them.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?

81. The work is very small in amount, and comes on only at intervals. Such an arrangement would be impracticable.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?

82. Where a zamindar makes the bandobast, his haris. Elsewhere, any local haris; in duck-shooting, the mohanas.

83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced any difficulty in making them accept payment ?

83. I do not pay when the zamindar supplies; it is an insult to the zamindar. Otherwise, about 4 annas a piece for 1½ or 2 hours' shooting. Mohanas are paid in lump, and according to the length of the shoot and the number of shikaris, it may vary from Rs. 5 to Rs 10.

Zamindars' men will not accept payment.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?

84. Not that I know of.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

85. A question for the revenue officer.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials.

86. Not that I know of.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

87. Zamindars' haris.

88. Are the labours given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

88. I believe big zamindars sometimes pay them well. The P. W. D. pay at certain rates, I understand, when they make the requisition.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

89. To a very slight extent, if at all. Only constantly recurrent chher could cause much loss.

90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards ?

90. I have no knowledge of the use of local fund beldars in closing of breaches. But a breach may mean the destruction of a road, and in such cases one would say there was no interference.

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders ?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

92. I think they should be paid by the local board as they are by the P. W. D. in cases of requisition. There is no other available agency.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. MONTGOMERY.

To the Chairman—

I can't have camels for the whole tour, because I have to tour from one part of the province to the other from time to time by railway.

The haris are sometimes fed by the zamindar after a whole day's shoot and also the mohanas.

I can't ascertain as Manager what rates are paid by the zamindars as lapo, as no accounts are kept by them. It would only appear in the banias' books in lump sums, but payments of that kind are generally concealed. On the other hand, payments for the mukhtiarkars' camps and officers' staff are entered openly in the banias' books. These entries are generally Rs. 5, 10, 15 for a mukhtiarkar's camp, and the bania when questioned explains that it was for the time that the mukhtiarkar made his camp there. The assessments are generally paid by the bania, but I have found separate entries of

tapedar, so much. Large payments for new karias appear in the books, but in a concealed form and the cause of payment only came out in the enquiry into the claim of the bania against the estate.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I make up my daily expenses as follows :—Eggs 5 to 6 annas, chickens 4 to 8 annas, milk 2 to 4 annas, wood 4 to 10 annas, and the rest are miscellaneous items. I also include my servants' expenses. It is only a rough estimate. The groceries bought from the bazaar might be 2 or 3 annas a day. I only get ice when I am near the railway. I have given the recent prices as Manager. They are considerably higher than the prices when I was Assistant Collector. The rates have gone up considerably. Previously there used to be no value for milk, fowls and grass. My expenses came to from Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 a day when I was Assistant Collector and the rates were lower.

The tapedar used to prepare the bills, I think probably in consultation with my butler.

To the Chairman—

The butler is consulted, because he manages the funds of a bachelor, and he makes it a point of honour to see that the expenses are not excessive.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The butler would know what his sahib has been paying in the other camps and the tapedar would have only a vague idea of the prices. The bills now presented to me sometimes represent more than the true cost, that is my opinion. When I was Assistant Collector the bills used to vary greatly. I think the payments charged in my bills when brought by the big zamindars probably had no relation to the prices, but in the case of small zamindars they had. I have no knowledge of any repayments to the butlers. I have heard of this allegation. I have heard it alleged that it was generally done. I have no knowledge of fees alleged to be exacted by the butlers under the name of kilokhorani. I don't think that the mukhtiarkars in Sind believe that they will get promotions for furnishing supplies to the sahibs at less than the actual price.

I was Assistant Collector when the orders of 1914 were issued. In the Nawabshah district the rules were introduced in full and also in Hyderabad district. In the Sukkur district they were not attempted and in the Larkana district they were left vague. There are now many independent contractors in Naushahro, which shows that it was not possible to get zamindars to volunteer. The independent contractors are banias. I don't think the old system continues at all in Naushahro. I don't know any details about it. I have not toured in the whole of Nawabshah.

To the Chairman—

The Collector of Sukkur knew that zamindars were unwilling to take up the contracts, so a circular letter was addressed to the zamindars in each taluka, asking them if they were willing to take up the contracts. They generally replied that they did not want to have anything to do with it. In the Garhi Yasin taluka, Khan Sahib Shah Nawaz Khan replied that he had been always ready and willing to provide supplies and everything else for the comforts of the officers and he would continue to do so, but that he was not prepared to take up the work of a bania for the Government. That was the effect of his reply. The other zamindars apparently consulted Khan Sahib Shah Nawaz Khan who sent them a copy of his letter which they merely copied. It is altogether against the abru of zamindars of the Upper Sind Frontier district to undertake to provide supplies on payment; they consider that that is not the business of a zamindar and that touring officers should be their guests.

To the Chairman—

I was at that time Assistant Collector in the Shikarpur division. There were no orders of the Collector introducing the rules up to the time I left in 1916.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I think it was generally the work of the zamindar's kamdar to bring the supplies in the case of big zamindars. There was no change in the system while I was in the Sukkur district. The tapedar was not really concerned when the supplies were made by the big zaminders, that was the same before and after 1914 in the Sukkur district. I know nothing as to the 10 per cent. paid by the contractors of the Public Works Department. The case I referred to was of a sum of Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 paid to the subordinates of the Public Works Department by partners in land.

I have found entries in banias' books of amounts paid for the rasai of touring officers' camps. The item was debited to the zamindar concerned. I remember only one entry of the mukhtiarkar's camp. I don't remember any other particular entries in detail. I can't exactly remember, I think there was mention of the names of other officers. I can't give the exact figure but my impression is that they were from Rs. 5 to 15. They may have been for other matters than the actual camps.

The tapedar is now out of it, from my own experience in some cases in the Nawabshah district. The kamdar did not appear in one case and the tapedar refused to help, and in the other case a tapedar ran away when I called upon him to produce the bills personally.

To the Chairman—

I have toured in the Kohistan in the Karachi district as Assistant Collector; there, touring is distinctly a difficult matter. Rasai was made there by the tapedar. It is difficult to get supplies at all in the Kohistan.

I mean by my answer to question 65 that the raiyat is much too yielding: it is a matter of education. The tapedar represents that he has powers which he does not really possess.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I referred to one case in which Rs. 300 were paid for one karia. Both the bania and zamindars told me that it was a payment for the karia to the daroghas. It is a case of simple bribery. I think it can come under the head of lapo, for such charges are usually taken by the daroghas. I don't say such high charges but some charges.

The contractors in Nawabshah are not of the zamindari class, they are traders. That is my impression.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I don't think any scheme will stop lapo, except the education of the people.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HARPER.

1.	Name.	1. D. S. Harper, Esq.
2.	Occupation.	2. Missionary elergyman.
3.	Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue.	3. No land. Income tax Rs. 90 only.
4.	Residence.	4. Hyderabad, Sind.
5.	Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. None.
		Rasai.
11.	Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. Own supplies.
12.	Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. Are purchased in each place I visit.
13.	Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates?	13. Market rates.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF THE REVEREND D. S. HARPER.

To the Chairman—

I tour in the Hyderabad, Nawabshah and Thar and Parkar districts and some parts of the Karachi district. Sometimes I take no servant and sometimes one or two servants. I generally encamp in Government bungalows—otherwise in musafir-khanas or in small rowtis. I take most of the provisions with myself. All I need to buy are firewood and milk; I have not had any difficulty in getting them. I sometimes get eggs and fowls; I send my man to buy them. Sometimes there is difficulty in getting them, as they are not always available. Sometimes I am out for 3 months at a time; now I simply go out between Sundays. My wants are not large on tour. I have not actually seen how the supplies are collected for touring officers; I have no actual experience of rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney—

There are some Christians wherever I go and they help me to get supplies. They often invite me. They generally get the supplies from their own resources.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. RUPCHAND TEUMAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mr. Rupchand Teumal.

2. Appointment. — 2. Mukhtiarkar, 3rd grade.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Ghotki.

4. Length of service.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 4 & 5. Twenty-four years. All in Sind. Four years in the Public Works Department, 17 years in the Encumbered Estate Department and 3 years (2 years and 9 months) in proper Revenue Department.

N.B.—To the present taluka I am only recently transferred (on the 1st April) and therefore my replies should be taken as relating to the Ghotki taluka where I had remained for 2½ years.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge? — 6. About 345 square miles (I mean Ghotki taluka).

7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? — 7. Fowls, eggs, milk, butter, meat, grass and fuel, besides flour, rice, sugar, which are rarely required locally by European officers.

8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? — 8. European officers for their own use usually take their own cots. Establishments and attendants require one cot for each individual. Jars are required at the average rate of about one for two men. The total number depends upon the men in the camp. Sometimes a deg (big kettle) is required for warming water.

9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? — 9. They take their tents and if there are bungalows they live in them. Their establishment also live in tents, but on occasions tapedars' deras and musafirkhanas are occupied. In the case of establishments living in the tents, kacha tents are put up for their servants as cookroom. Zamindars' houses are also used but rarely.

10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? — 10. Kacha sheds are put up wherever there are no bungalows.

11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? — 11. Tents and bungalows are used for officers.

12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? — 12. Unskilled labour.

13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? — 13. Fair on the whole. They are made nice at the time of repairs, specially when grassed, but after some three or four months they get bad in many cases.

14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? — 14. Vice-president, taluka local board (who was the mukhtiarkar in the Ghotki taluka), was responsible. Partly by contract and partly by departmental management.

15. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? — 15. No. Not unless an officer, Collector or Commissioner, has to drive by any road, in which case zamindars do help.

16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? — 16. Camels. Engaged for the whole period of their tour at headquarters.

17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? — 17. Ordinarily post is sent for by the Collector through his own peon as far as railway station wherefrom the kotar helps in bringing it to the camp. Assistant Collector's post also goes similarly, to which place it is redirected; but on occasions if the kotar is not available, a zamindar's man has to take the post.

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? — 18. For big officers like Collector, Ghotki, Mahesro and Sarhad. Assistant Collector usually encamps at almost all tapas and also in big villages out of tapa headquarter.

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

19. At Ghotki and Mahesro there are regular camping grounds with trees. They are looked after by malis and beldars, though last year some zamindari labour had also been employed in addition for the Mahesro camping ground. At other camps where there are no regular camping grounds, zamindars have to prepare a ground or a field temporarily for that purpose.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

20. All of them.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

21. To Ghotki and Mahesro, but Mahesro is not worth the name.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

22. Ghotki, Mahesro and Sarhad.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

23. Only one chowkidar.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

24. Supply of provisions and looking after all other necessary arrangements—may be taken with or without payment.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

25. Roughly—Fowl 1, eggs 6, milk 2 seers (unless the officer has his own cow), butter ½ lb., fuel 1 maund, karbi (juari stalk) 2 bundles, palal (rice straw) 2 bundles, meat 1 lb.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

26. Depends upon the number of men. Each man requires milk about 1 lb., meat ¼ lb.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

27. Fowls 4 annas each, eggs 6 annas dozen, butter Re. 1 per seer, milk 1 anna and 6 pies per seer, jowari stalks 2 annas a bundle, previously not charged at all. Firewood not charged at all. Other bazaar things at the rates prevailing in the bazaar at the time. Sheep not available. Nor ever required.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. No, except this year for jowari stalk.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

29. Cannot say. Depends on the quantity of requirements.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

30. They are provided by zamindars, except those that are bazaar things. They are collected by the tapedars and his kotars and brought to the camp by them.

31. How are they paid for?

31. Seldom paid for by munshis, peons and servants. Officers do pay, but not to the full extent of the quantity supplied, as the butler curtails the bill and says the excess things were used by him, unless the officer himself gives notice of the requirements in advance. In case of establishment and servants and peons if cash allowance is paid by the tapedar, they do pay for the shop things direct to the bania.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?

32. Money for things obtained from the bania's shop is either paid immediately or debited against the tapedar's name, whereas that for the things obtained from the zamindars is appropriated by the tapedar as a set-off against the expenses incurred by him. On occasions he has to purchase things in advance at his own cost, if the zamindar is unable to meet with the wants.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

33. Cannot say exactly. But the tapedars used to say that the Assistant Collector's camp cost them on an average Rs. 20 a day and the Collector's about Rs. 40 a day. This includes the feeding of the tapedar, the supervising tapedar and other tapedars if called to the camp and also any guest to the munshis. It also includes cash payments made for examination of the tapedar's dafter.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

34—35. In Ghotki taluka it was customary for the tapedar to bear the expenses himself of the Assistant Collector's camp out of taluka headquarters except in the case of one or two big zamindars who used to pay lapo in lump sum to small extent and bear the rasai expenses themselves. Such expenses at the taluka headquarters except for the first occasion which is the tapedar's concern and the expenses of the Collector's camp in and out of the taluka headquarters used to be borne from the rasai fund.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

36. No.

37. Do they obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

37. No such local fund garden in the Ghotki taluka.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

38. The zamindars refuse to deal with this matter direct, and the tapedars have not therefore ceased to collect their supplies.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

39. Can suggest no effective modification at present without the consultation of the zamindars. Not possible to have such a contractor.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

40. For camps timely intimation is received in most cases but seldom any intimation of requirements.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

41. I made a report in 1915 that the rules were not practicable, as the work had only been thrust upon the zamindars, and therefore the subordinates of the various departments will have to keep the usual arrangements for their respective officers.

42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?

42. No fruit dhalis except in the year 1915. Game very occasionally, if brought by any zamindars. Vegetables frequently supplied on camps from the municipal garden.

43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?

43. Fruit dhali may have cost Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 and vegetable dhalis may be worth only a few annas.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?

44. I could not lay hands on these orders but understand they purport to direct that no rich dhali should be given. No difficulty is experienced in carrying out these orders.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

45. Some sort of nazrano due to a superior as is payable in the Rohri Division to the zamindar of the deh by the other land-holders, and is recognised even in the record of rights. In the olden times before British Government it seems to be customary among the landholders to pay such a nazrano to somebody on behalf of the then Government, who came to collect a share on account of the land revenue. This custom seems to have been acquiesced after the British conquest by the very fact of low pay sanctioned for the village establishment. Now it is however considered as an illegal tax upon the land, levied by the tapedar.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

46. Two to my knowledge. One in cash payable at the time of collections of land revenue and the other in kind payable at the time of partal. The latter is not however levied against all landholders and is paid in lump quantity of the raw grain for the horse.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

47. Cash lapo is levied by the tapedar from the zamindar direct, though indirectly in some cases haris also pay a share in the form of deh kharch at the time of batai—for the ostensible benefit of the tapedar himself.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

48. In the Ghotki taluka the usual charge is one anna per jireb of cultivated survey number—anaki as they call it—but the rate varies according to the circumstances. Some docile zamindars pay even up to 2 annas per jereb, whereas others pay less. Some big zamindars pay in lump sum which may come to much less than one anna even.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

49. About half of it, the tapedars used to say, goes after rasai and annuities. Yes.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

50. It used to be managed by the head munshi for the first year of my service as mukhtiarkar, then by tapedars themselves with one as their mukhi, but ultimately by the beginning of the January last it was stopped altogether, so that at the time of the last horse show at Ghotki and last office inspection no rasai or payment was made at all. In Guni taluka also I am told there is no such fund as it had already been stopped by Mr. Vastiram before I joined.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. Exact details I am not aware of, but it is utilized partly for such purposes.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue irrigation, police and forests?

52. Exactions are rare. Generally it is free contribution by the zamindars because of time-honoured custom as far as the Revenue Department is concerned.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. Serious mistakes in inspections are not concealed by the inspecting office. Lapo is considered to be a general booty which is claimed to be divided amongst those who have to deal with the tapedar and the taluka office. Inspection is taken as an excuse and an instrument of threat, because it is not a difficult matter for those who are on the spot with the officers to prejudice an officer against his subordinate by magnifying trivial mistakes. To avoid such an unpleasantness, therefore, the taluka officials do not mind the inspecting staff getting their customary share of the general booty.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

54. I do not think—though after that there is less of exaction.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

55. None.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the land revenue code?

56. I think much depends upon the zamindars themselves, they should form an association in which they should discuss these matters and combine to stop this evil in which some may be themselves indulging because of their unauthorized actions. It may be due to their weakness to give in individually, but combined they can muster strong to refuse the payment of this illegal charge. The tapedar gives a reason to them that he has to take the lapo because over him lies the burden of rasai expenses. But this is sham, impressed on the people to benefit himself, because the lion's share is kept by the tapedar for himself. I know of one tapedar (Chimandas) in the Ghotki taluka who abstained from taking lapo and nobody ever demanded any rasai or cash from him. Those that are even sharers in the lapo do not compel the tapedar to take the lapo. But before this question is settled due consideration has to be given to the tapedars' present style of living in comparison to which his pay is too small and his travelling allowance quite inadequate. He is required to keep pace with the Assistant Collector and the mukhtiarkar and must therefore have a decent animal under him. His social position requires him also to maintain a servant. All this the tapedar cannot meet with from his present pay. At the same time the pay of the menial establishment also demands consideration.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

57. A collection of unskilled labourers.

58. Who are the 'Chheras'?

58. Such a collection of haris sent up as labourers are called chheras.

59. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

59. To pitch and unpitch tents, to load and unload kit of touring officers and to do all other menial work for them. Also to help in closing breaches and respond to any other such calls of accidents and urgent needs.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

60. Not to my knowledge. It is a time-honoured custom which, if they refuse it at the call of the zamindar, is penalized at the time of batai.

61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

61. They get their food for that period from zamindar who is paid by Government if the chher is called for any Government purpose. If called to do any private service for the touring officer they are paid in cash though in rare cases by the officer concerned.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

62. Very rarely available.

63. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by local fund or Government?

63. In the Ghotki taluka there were 37 beldars sanctioned by local boards but the number actually maintained was much less.

64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

64. Because there is no other labour available on immediate demand and in some cases, for instance breaches, the demand for such chher is to the advantage of the cultivating class.

65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

65. None to my knowledge.

66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour?

66. Already answered on question 68.

67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?

67. Assistant Collector about 10 and Collector about 20.

68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?

68. Assistant Collector about 15 and Collector about 40.

69. Whence do they obtain them?

69. Locally from the zamindar through the tapedar.

70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

70. Already answered on question 61.

72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?

72. Through the zamindar.

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?

73. Yes. No difficulty.

74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

74. I do not think.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

75. Zamindari labour.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?

76. They are given food by the zamindar. Such expenses, I mean wangar, as actually incurred by the zamindars had been given last year from local funds. This year such labour was required for the horse show ground when regular muster rolls had been maintained and the money was paid to the zamindars at a fixed daily rate.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

77 to 79. No case in my days.

80. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

80. Belders were engaged only this year and there was no interference. They were called to prepare the horse-show grounds at Ghotki, which was also a local board concern.

81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

81. None.

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

82. As there is no other labour at hand, zamindars are bound to give help, provided they are paid fully.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. RUPCHAND TEUMAL

To the Chairman—

I have made enquiries in the Guni taluka and I find that there is no rasai fund now. There used to be one which was stopped by Mr. Vastiram. I am at present the mukhtiarkar of Guni and have only come there since the 1st March 1918, so I have very little personal experience of Guni.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. NANIKRAM JETHMAL.

1. Name.	1. Mr. Nanikram Jethmal.
2. Appointment.	2. Mukhtiarkar, Hala.
3. Headquarters.	3. Hala.
4. Length of service.	4. 20 years, 3 months.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. Entire service has been in Sind.
	General.
6. What is the area covered by your charge?	6. 508½ square miles.
11. What supplies have to be provided locally at your various camps for various officers?	11. Except grains, spices, &c., which are taken from the local bania, milk, butter, fuel, eggs, fowl, mutton, grass, earthen jars, cots.
13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps?	13. Between 20 to 30 of each at each camp.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments?	15. They live in rowtis at places where there are no P. W. D. bungalows and out-houses or tapedar's dera or dharamsala.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps?	16. Where no stables are attached to bungalows, kacha landhis are made.
18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps?	18. Tents are pitched.
19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps?	19. About half a dozen men.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. Good.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. Taluka local board. Beldars are employed for repairing roads.
22. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps?	22. Not as a rule. Road repair work commences after rainy season is over, i.e., from October. This coincides with the touring season. Main roads are done first naturally as they are much frequented by touring officers. Then other roads are taken up.
23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters?	23. One or two horses for each touring officer and riding and baggage camels for private and official establishments. This transport is as a rule engaged at headquarters for the whole touring season.
24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?	24. By post offices. Where there are no such offices, post is sent at their camps through kotars.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?	25. Matiari, Khebar, Hala, Saidabad, Uderolal villages and Shatian, Allahdino Sand, Tajpur, Sekhat, Jiandal Kot, Baukhan Pathan, Bhitshah, Bhanot, Kandiari, Zahirpir, Sirachuin.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?	26. At Hala by the municipality, elsewhere by men of the local zamindar or wadero.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?	27. All.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?	28. Hala, Khebar and Uderolal stations.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?	29. Matiari, Khebar, Hala, Saidabad, Uderolal station and Tajpur.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?	30. A care-taker.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Rasai, strictly speaking, means the system of furnishing supplies to touring officers and their establishments, but in the ordinary acceptation of the term it includes tips to the official and private retinue of touring officers.

32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. 1 or 2 chickens or fowl, 6 eggs, ¼ lb. of butter, 1 to 2 seers of milk, 4 or 5 bundles of grass, about 10 seers of faggot.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

33. Except the things taken from the bania, ¼ lb. of mutton, ½ seer of milk, 5 to 10 seers fuel, 1 jar, 1 cot per each.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Prices of grain of various kinds and of rice this year have been very high, varying from 5 to 8 rupees per maund. Eggs 2 to 3 pice per one; fowls 6 to 8 annas per one; sheep 5 to 7 rupees each; milk 1½ annas per seer, in inundation season 2 annas per seer; butter Rs. 1-4-0 per seer; bajri and jowari stalks Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per 100 bundles of 20 seers each; firewood 4 annas per maund.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Yes.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

36. Rs. 10 except the cost of articles bought from the bania's shop.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. At places like Hala, Uderolal and Khebar these things are provided by the local zamindar, at other places where there are small zamindars tapedar provides the supplies collecting them from more than one zamindar.

38. How are they paid for?

38. Officers pay their bills. Establishments generally do not pay for these things.

39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?

39. Zamindars take payments, they or their kamdars take payments, but sometimes return the money to butlers or peons by way of bakhshish. It does not reach haris from whom things are collected.

40. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. In the rates of 3:1 including the cost of clerical and menial establishments.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. By zamindars who collect things from their haris.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. No rasai fund is maintained in Hala taluka.

43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. Nothing.

44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

44. There are only 3 such gardens in the taluka. Vegetables from local fund garden in Hala are given to officers free and I am not sure but think the same practice prevails in P. W. D. gardens also.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. Except in a few cases it has not been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914. The tapedars have not actually ceased to collect the supplies. Before 1914 the burden fell on many. After these orders it fell on one selected for a particular camp and he had to respond to the call of officers of all departments encamping there. The only way to get out of it for him was to do things indifferently with the result that tapedars and officials of corresponding ranks of other departments had to work first behind the scene and afterwards openly, because supplies must be procured and provided for touring officers and their establishments.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. With a view to eradicate rasai and lapo the following are my suggestions. In view of these the rules of 1914 may be modified. Mukhtiarkar, tapedar and zamindar should have absolutely no hand in procuring or providing supplies. It would be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka but his charges for supplies will certainly be more than the headquarter bazaar rates in view of the labour and trouble involved in collecting and supplying them from camp to camp. As no one will like to pay more than the ordinary bazar rates, either the travelling allowances of touring officers and their establishments will have to be increased proportionately or a fixed sum of money will have to be granted by Government to the contractor to compensate him for selling supplies to them at headquarter rates and in return for his labour and cost of collecting and supplying them at each camp with a margin of profit to himself. This additional expenditure can be met from the saving in travelling allowances and expenses of carriage of record if the touring period is curtailed and the number of members of touring establishments reduced to the lowest possible minimum. In my opinion there will not be much difficulty in doing this because on account of facilities of communication with district headquarter and the spread of education people now-a-days, as a rule, do not quietly submit to the decisions of taluka officials. In every contested matter, judicial, revenue, etc., etc., there is invariably an appeal and records of these are sent for and scrutinized by superior officers. Besides there are the pleaders, the press and the communication of almost every one of some importance in the taluka with them. Zamindars frequently visit district headquarters and meet superior officers and talk without reserve on various matters. Therefore the curtailment of tour or the reduction of the frequency of inspections, will not, I venture to think, conduce to any bad result. That taluka official is simply living in a fool's paradise who still thinks that his doings will not be known to his superiors. Such being the position the inspections of the mukhtiarkars' offices should not be more frequent and rigid than those of the offices of sub-judges.

When this is done and if the establishments of touring officers still expect to have a share of the tapedars' lapo because of inspections of tapedars' records and taluka offices, etc., etc., for sometime if no notice is taken of the ordinary errors and the mukhtiarkars are taken into confidence and from time to time freely consulted as to the ways and means to be adopted to eradicate the evil, some of them if not all will certainly co-operate loyally with superior officers to put it down. I am confident that a great many of the mukhtiarkars will act vigorously under such altered conditions to put a stop to lapo. Tapedars then could no longer take shelter in the now partly acceptable defence that they have to contribute for rasai, and before long it must end. Unless improvement is effected on some such lines as are indicated above, it is impossible for any mukhtiarkar, however sincere he be, to stop these evils. He may however succeed to reduce them slightly or temporarily. The same reasons apply with equal force to other departments. Education of the masses will certainly do some good, but this or the increase of the pay of tapedars and similarly situated officials in Government service are matters which will take time. I got these questions only yesterday. I am therefore unable to give any useful opinion regarding modifications of the rules of land revenue code, as I have had no timely notice.

49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. Of their camps, but not of their requirements.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. No.

51. Do you give 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep.

51. Never except dhalis of vegetables and flowers of the local fund garden which fact I clearly state at the time of giving.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such 'Dhalis' and sheep?

52. An average dhali must cost 4 to 6 rupees. So also an average sheep.

53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. So far as I can recollect the orders are that dhalis once in a way of the garden of the giver may be accepted. I have experienced no difficulty in carrying out these orders.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Illegal cash gratification taken by tapedars, abdars, daroghas, etc., is called lapo.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. I don't know, there are more forms of lapo than one.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Lapo is levied by these subordinates from zamindars for the purpose of supplementing their income.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. In the Hala taluka at annas 8 per cultivated survey number, i.e., at the rate of about ½ an anna per rupee of assessment.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. To the extent of about 10 per cent. Not in the Hala taluka.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. None.

60. How far is unauthorized 'bapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. Five to 8 per cent., I think. So far as I know each tapedar gives about 25 or 30 rupees in the whole year in his own way. Exactions are not large here, because the tapedars get less and the taluka is unpopular from the tapedar's point of view.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. Zamindars of this taluka are pirs, sayeds, jagirdars, a great many of whom are educated and influential people and to them tapedar is nobody. In days gone by lapo was extortion, since the orders of 1914 it is nothing short of begging here. Only the very illiterate and petty khatedar believes that the tapedar can favour and disfavour him. Here people appeal frequently even on decisions of Deputy Collectors and the Collector, so they don't fear the tapedar.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. Vide answer 60.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. Yes. I think it has been reduced by ⅓ in the Hala taluka.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorised 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. None.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. Yes. Vide answer to question 48.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Chher means labour supplied by zamindars on the requisition of Government officers.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Generally haris of zamindars requisitioned to supply labour.

68. What kind of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Menial work.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Not express but implied in some cases.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?

70. I don't think they get it except food for the time they work.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Plenty of it.

72. Is any considerable staff of "Boldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Yes.

73. How far are the zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. I think in floods and breaches in canals and bunds only.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. No.

75. For what purposes do they require labour on tour?

75. For assisting patawallas in loading and unloading kit, pitching tents, &c.

76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?

76. About 6.

77 How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp?

77. About 4 more.

78. Whence do they obtain them?

79. Is anything paid for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars?

78 & 79. I generally engage beldars and malis for this work.

82. How do they obtain labour for shikar?

83. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

82—84. None has been requisitioned in this taluka for shikar during my tenure of office.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

85 & 86. I don't take any.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. A large number of unskilled labourers and some carpenters and other artisans.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. P. W. D. officers give food only to unskilled labourers supplied by zamindars and daily wages to carpenters and other artisans.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. To some extent it does. For instance in last October on account of sudden and heavy rise in the Indus, heads of Sangro, Redah and Aliganj had to be closed to save the country down. It was the harvesting season and employment of a large number of haris for several days meant much loss to them.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

90. Not much but I consider this as a lesser evil than the other.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

91. None.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. Yes. I should recommend that each touring officer should have a number of khalasis engaged only for touring season and that on no account should chher be taken except only in very emergent cases like floods, breaches, etc., when labour cannot otherwise be had on full payment.

In such cases full daily wages according to prevailing rates be given.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. NANIKRAM.

To the Chairman—

Malis are kept where there are gardens.

My answer to question 40 refers only to the supplies. It does not include the cash payments.

I believe that the rasai fund was stopped in Hala since 1914, on account of the strictness of Mr. Beyts, the then Collector.

I think 3 months' tour would be enough for the Assistant Collector and Deputy Collector and 2 or 3 months for the Collector. I think it would be enough to enable him to do the crop inspection. The Assistant Collector might tour from 20th

November up to Christmas and again from 15th March to 15th May for jamabandi—November to December for kharif inspection—March to May for rabi crop inspection, jamabandi and inspection of offices.

I think one inspection a year would be enough for the mukhtiarkar's office. It is now inspected twice, once by the Collector and once by the Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector. It would be enough if there was only one inspection of all the offices.

The orders are that mistakes found at the time of inspection should be corrected at that time but those orders are not strictly observed.

I have four supervising tapedars on Rs. 30 to 35 with Rs. 10 horse allowance. It has been proposed to raise their pay to Rs. 75. The cost of the new scale would be about Rs. 300. I think it would be better to abolish the supervising tapedars and appoint in their place one or two naib mukhtiarkars in each taluka. I think the appointment of such men would tend to decrease lapo, because they would be better paid and better educated and would not contract the bad habits of the lower grades.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The rasai fund has ceased to exist but rasai still goes on. The amounts come out of the pockets of the poor rayat. Cash payments to the menials still continue, but not to the inspecting staff. The supplies of provisions also continue, not to the same extent.

The ratio given 3 to 1 applies to the state of affairs since 1914. The ratio of the actual cost of supplies to the cash payments was much greater before, viz., 4 to 1. The tapedar's hand is used to make payments. The tapedar recoups himself from the haris. One of the reasons assigned by the tapedar for levying lapo is rasai. If rasai were abolished lapo would be greatly or completely abolished—completely in the course of time with the spread of education.

The tapedar's contribution from lapo was pooled for the rasai fund before 1914. It was used for rasai at all places, and not only at headquarters. The tapedar or the supervising tapedar at headquarters used to keep the fund. I was not in touch with the fund. The tapedar never asked me to enforce the payment of lapo. I am confident that the system of independent contractors would work successfully.

To the Chairman—

It would be possible to fix regular camping grounds in my taluka. I don't think it would work to give a small seri grant of land on condition of the holder keeping up the camping ground. I don't think it would work, because he would be under the influence of the subordinate officers of all departments.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

A grant of 10 to 20 acres would suffice for the purpose, if the land was good and there was water supply. I was mukhtiarkar of Mirpurkhas for 3 years. The rasai fund ceased to exist after the orders of 1914. I was transferred in 1916. I was for 3 years acting mukhtiarkar of Jamesabad. I don't know if there was any rasai fund there. I was the Collector's head munshi and serishtedar before that.

I think the mukhtiarkar's tour might be curtailed by 2 or 3 months in the hot season.

To Mr. Sawhney—

It would be necessary to have a seridar for each taluka. There would be about 5 or 6 camps in each taluka. I think it would cost Rs. 1,000 in subsidies to the contractor in each taluka, on condition that he sold the things at the bazar rates. If the subsidy were sufficiently large, it would be possible to get a contractor from the beginning.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

The Collector's tour should not be curtailed.

I think that lapo now is begging pure and simple, and not a tip for general favours.

To the Chairman—

There is no hard and fast rule about the tour of the mukhtiarkar. In some districts I understand 15 days a month has been prescribed. As a matter of fact, 15 days a month is the maximum. I personally tour about 20 days in the winter when there is crop inspection and about 10 days in the summer. The mukhtiarkar's tour as it is, is enough; it covers about 5 or 6 months altogether, away from headquarters. I don't think it could be curtailed on further consideration.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHANDUMAL HUKUMATRAI.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mr. Chandumal Hukumatrai.

2. Occupation. — 2. Prosecuting sub-inspector, police, Dadu.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad, Sind.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai is supply of provisions to officials and their camps to avoid displeasure or to get their favour. It is either given free of charges or for nominal charge and it also includes cash payments to the establishment.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. Sixteen years as sub-inspector.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. There are no fixed camping places. Camps are fixed according to the choice of officers.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. Inspector, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, District Superintendent and sometimes Deputy Inspector-General, Sind.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. European officers require fowls, eggs, milk, mutton, sheep, palas, fish, vegetables, fruit, butter, potatoes, ice, fuel, ghee, grass, rice, flour and other sundries. Indians require mutton, milk, fowls, eggs, ghee, rice, flour, fuel, &c.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. Banias, zamindars and badmashes.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. Do. do.

13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? — 13. Full bazaar rate to bania, and usually nothing to zamindars and badmashes, as regards prices they vary from year to year.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes, of course.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. We get them from zamindars and badmashes and sometimes pay as much as we get from officers.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. That depends upon the individuals concerned, generally speaking the cost is from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes, free.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 8.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes, free.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. From Rs. 3 to Rs. 5.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? — 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp? — 22. It is done by begar. Sometimes we pay for it and get nothing. Officers generally pay a small portion which is again returned to his private establishment. Servants and establishment pay nothing. It falls on the subordinate establishment who realize from badmashes and other improper sources.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? — 25. Sometimes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? — 26. Sometimes it costs, but we get no payment.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? — 27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

28. We receive small portion of the cost.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Police inspector and their superior officers including their establishments.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. Already answered.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. From Rs. 300 to 500 and even more on special occasions.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. By subordinate police.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars, or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. The sub-inspector gives the bill.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. None of these suggestions, if carried out, is likely to stop the rasai.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. Contractors can be found but the margin of their profit would be an additional charge for rasai.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. Rasai blunts the sense of self-respect among zamindars and subordinate officials, besides involving much waste of money and energy. This can be stopped only if the officers are wholly determined to stop it, because no body can force rasai on them if they are unwilling to have it. Their strong will to put a stop to their establishment can do what orders on paper can not.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?

37. Yes, others have been giving and it costs Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 and sometimes even more.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?

39 to 48. Lapo exists in the revenue department; in the police department, instead of lapo the system of tips prevails, realizations from it are appropriated to rasai purposes. Tips are taken in connection with—

(1) Proceedings under chapter VIII.

(2) Services of summonses and warrants.

(3) Execution of warrants of fine.

(4) Petitions for enquiry.

(5) Cases under sections 325 and 147, I. P. C.. which are reduced to those under section 323, I. P. C.

(6) Compromising in cases.

(7) Bail-bonds.

(8) Cases is which evidence is weak or evidence is decreased.

(9) Challan fees.

(10) Inquiries under section 523, C. P. C.

(11) Cruelty to animals.

(12) Summaries of classes A, B, and C.

(13) Reports received and privately disposed of.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

(14) Inquests.

(15) Cases relating to disputes over property.

(16) Gambling, &c., &c.

(17) Grant or revocation of licences for arms.

Besides, after the camp is removed the head constable goes round in his beat and makes collections from zamnidars, badmashes, absconders' relations, pathariwallas and released offenders and suspects.

2. Engineering department by percentage from contractors, and income at the time of floods. Also from exactions from zamindars per khudas, kasees, &c, &c.

(3) Forest department from panchori and from contractors. Also from zamindars for the free removal of wood.

(4) No question has been put about excise department, hence no reply is given.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No. Subordinate staff recover amounts which exceed the expenses, the excess is divided amongst various subordinates of police.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Tips will not stop in the police department as long as rasai does not stop and officers do not keep strict eye on favourites' subordinates who make good rasai. Improvement can be brought about by strong will on the part of officers and their mixing freely with the people and making investigation for themselves, e. g., in undetected and badmash cases and complaints not recorded and privately disposed of, &c., &c.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means gratuitous labour supplied at times of camp for the pitching of tents, helping menials, servants of officers and other establishment.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Badmashes, ex-convicts and others who happen to meet policemen and who are forced to work, village pagis, and sometimes we get men from favourite zamindars.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. Replied in para. 52.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Practice not uniform, chheras don't receive anything in cash from zamindars, but they get free food. Zamindars take some portion of the produce at the time of division.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. Very rarely an officer gives to chheras, but usually nothing is given by zamindars and officers.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. From 10 to 15 chheras as necessity requires.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. From 5 to 10 and 10 to 20 chheras.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. No.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. From 10 to 50 and sometimes even more as circumstances permit.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. Chheras do not enjoy shikar as they have to go in ice-cold water in the morning and suffer in health. Sometimes few are paid.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards ?

62. Never counted, but seen hundreds at times according to the necessity.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?

63. For some time roads are blocked and traffic is stopped prior to the passing of motor car which causes great inconvenience to the public. After that the roads being newly repaired benefit the public to a large extent.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards ?

64. Cash for hired labour and food for haris from zamindar and local fund.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. Any number according to the necessity.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?

66. They get food and rarely cash.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?

67. Yes. Sometimes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?

68. It is always available and people are always willing to work if they are sure to be paid and treated kindly, there is no reason why people should not prefer working on wages to working merely on food.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?

70. It ought to be abolished completely and cash payment always to be made by officers.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CHANDUMAL.

To the Chairman—

I have been police prosecuting inspector from 20th February 1918. My experience dates only from 20th of last February. I was once before prosecuting sub-inspector for 3 or 4 months in 1914. I was 16½ years sub-inspector in the Thar and Parkar, Hyderabad and Nawabshah districts.

My native place is Hyderabad, Sind.

I don't pay anything towards the rasai. Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 is the amount of the modi's bill in the first instance. The head constable of the taluka headquarters pays the amount to the modi. They recover the amount from the badmashes, sometimes from the zamindars and from other sources. It does not cost the police anything. On the contrary there is a saving which is divided amongst the subordinates of the police department.

The casual labour referred to consists partly of haris and partly of other people who are not haris.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The badmashes are made to pay in the usual way, i.e., by being threatened with proceedings under chapter VIII. If they pay, they are not sent up under the chapter. Ex-convicts avoid being rearrested on suspicion by making payments. I referred to camps of the inspector and also the District Superintendent of Police, sometimes one, sometimes two, sometimes three and the total cost would be about Rs. 300—500. I have myself made rasai, not by myself but my subordinates and with my connivance. I myself am against rasai. I do not make it myself but I get it done by the jamadar and head constable. They showed me the accounts of the rasai. I did not tell them; they went with my knowledge and collected amounts from badmashes, etc. If there was a Christmas camp, the rasai expenses would amount to Rs. 1,000. I have made the rasai of Christmas camps twice at Sakrand. I made the rasai myself. The head constable and the munshis kept the accounts. I did not see the accounts but they only told me about it. I did not tell them to collect the money. They had already been collecting it during the year, certainly with my connivance because there was no other source. That was the fixed custom. The whole account is kept by the police head munshi at the police headquarters. The munshis have to contribute to the expenses sometimes out of their pay, generally out of their exactions.

To the Chairman—

After 1914 I was in charge of the Hur settlements, so I had no opportunities of putting down the rasai. There is no rasai in the settlements.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The expenses of the Christmas camp also include the expenses of the chheras who have to be called for carrying boats from one dhand (lake) to the other. We entered nominal charges in the bills. The charges were 25 to 30 % of the real cost. The officers used to pay the amounts of the bills but the sums were returned to the officers' menials. We used to repay them to the menials to prevent false information being given to the officers ; otherwise we would be harassed by them and they would make false complaints to the officers. Cash payments from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 are also made to the police orderlies ; nothing to the camelmen. Sometimes Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 are given to the butler.

To the Chairman—

I never saw actually the sums being given but as the butler came to salam me I knew that he had got it. The jamadar also told me that he got it.

I have made several attempts to stop rasai. I also personally explained the matter to the District Superintendent of Police. I told him that it ought to be stopped by increasing the pay of the head constables and constables. I did not suggest that the pay of the sub-inspectors should be increased. Of course there was need for the increase of the pay of the sub-inspector.

I was assaulted by the District Superintendent of Police, and all the munshis made mourning for me. I was not really dead. The mourning was false ; they actually made fun of me ; they were really laughing at me.

I tried my utmost to suppress rasai but I never succeeded.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I was a contractor in the Public Works Department before I became a sub-inspector. I think I used to pay 15% commission on contracts, 10 % to the sub-divisional office and 5% to the establishment of the Executive Engineer.

To the Chairman—

I had correspondence with the then Executive Engineer and said that I would not be any more a contractor ; so I gave it up and went into the police.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The payments were made to get excess measurements. I got many excess measurements and by that means I got about Rs. 4,000 cash. An established contractor can get off by paying only about 7% , the new contractors have to pay 10% .

The complainants have to support the investigating police party. The expenses might come to Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 a day in the case of big zamindars, in the case of ordinary zamindars about Rs. 2. The policemen are fed, sometimes by the complainant and sometimes by the zamindar. It costs them nothing when there are away from headquarters. I myself took nothing when away from headquarters. Several complaints have been made by the complainants to the superior officers about the expenses of investigating establishments.

To the Chairman—

I am 39 years old.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I was a zamindar before I was in the Police Department. My zamindari is in the Tando Mahomedkhan division. It is now looked after by my cousin. He does not live there. He lives in Hyderabad. My grand-father got the zamindari. My great-grand-father's cousin was mir munshi to the Talpurs. I did not like to carry on my zamindari, because I did not like the rasai system. I looked after the lands about 4 years. I was only for 2 years a Public Works Department contractor and also for one year a contractor to the Railway Department. The rates and sources are different in the Railway Department. My father was a contractor for about 25 years. I took the contracts in my father's name.

Rs. 4,000 profit was made in the name of my father with whom I was joint. It was a Rs. 16,000 contract, out of which I made Rs. 3,000 to 4,000. We gave the contract to sub-contractors. We made 25% by giving out the contract to the sub-contractors. Out of that profit we paid 10% to the establishment of the Public Works

Department and 5 % to the sub-divisional officer. We did not pay anything further, as my father was an established contractor. The net profit was Rs. 4,000 out of the contract of Rs. 16,000.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah-

I was transferred to the Excise Department in 1905 from the Police Department. I was transferred to the Police Department after 4 years. I was getting Rs. 100 plus Rs. 25 allowance in the Excise Department, I was an excise inspector there. I reverted as sub-inspector on Rs. 80. I am now 1st grade sub-inspector on Rs. 100. I didn't revert to the Police Department in the hope of becoming an inspector. I left the Excise Department in 1909. I have been superseded by a number of my juniors on account of rasai. I don't know how many. I have not kept the account. Of course I am against rasai but on several occasions I have made rasai under compulsion when I was assaulted. I joined the settlement in October 1915. Since 1915 I had nothing to do with chapter VIII.

I applied for sanction to prosecute the railway traffic inspector for interferring with my duties. I have not quarrelled with anybody in the last 3 years. It is not a fact that I have quarrelled with three mukhtiarkars. My reputation is that of a strictly honest man, which has damaged my prospects. I have not quarrelled with my officers.

I gave over charge of my appointment in the Nawabshah district on the 18th of February 1918. I have not been transferred on the complaint of insubordination but at my personal request to the Deputy Inspector-General and the District Superintendent of Police.

I did not give out 3 weeks before what evidence I was to give, as I did not expect to be called as a witness.

I was not assaulted by the District Superintendent of Police for being insubordinate.

To the Chairman—

I was reverted to the Police Department on my own request. I told the Commissioner in Sind that I did not like the work of the Abkari Department.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JAGATSING AILMAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mr. Jagatsing Ailmal.

2. Appointment. — 2. Superintendent, Land Records in Sind.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Hyderabad, Sind.

4. Length of service. — 4. 17 years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 17 years.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. The whole province.

7. What is the period of your tour? — 7. Six months.

8. What private servants accompany you on tour? — 8. As Superintendent, Land Records, I have not yet done any touring, having taken charge of the appointment only on the 1st instant.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? — 9. Usually I have two private servants to accompany me on tour; just at present I have only one. Four clerks, five peons and six khalasis accompany the Superintendent on tour.

10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? — 10. My servant usually takes with him potatoes, dals, red rice, spices, tea and sometimes ghee for me and himself on tour. (Note.—I am a vegetarian and abstain from taking flesh foods).

The official establishment take nothing with them on tour.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 11. I require for daily consumption flour, any fresh vegetable available, milk (one seer a day), and some quantity of firewood every day for myself. My office people require meat, milk, firewood, rice and flour at every camp.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? — 12. Private furniture—An easy chair, a teapoy and a piece of table only as a rule.

Official furniture—9 pieces of camp tables and 10 chairs, one teapoy and one stool.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? — 13. One cot and 2 or 3 jars for water—nothing else.

14. What tents do you take on tour? — 14. One hill tent and one miniature Swiss cottage.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? — 15. My private servant lived (before I became Superintendent) in a landhi built for my kitchen. I have now a rowti for him. My peons live in a rowti.

The clerks live in tapedars' deras or musafirkhanas generally.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? — 16. I have no need to take a horse with me on tour as Superintendent.

17. What records do you take on tour? — 17. Record of the current year and the past one year contained in six camel trunks.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? — 18. The office is held in a tent or in the office rooms attached to Public Works Department or district bungalows.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 19. I have no personal information on the point as Superintendent, Land Records, but I am told that about 10 men are collected to assist the peons and khalasis to pitch and unpitch tents, and some two men remain constantly in attendance at each camp to render small services, such as fetching water, etc.

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? — 20. I have no roads in my charge.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? — 21. District and taluka local boards are responsible for repairs of roads. Their road establishments are employed for repairs. Zamindars are also asked from time to time to supply cheer for repairing roads, particularly when the arrival of higher officials is expected.

22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?

22. I do not require special repairs made to the roads to my camps.

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?

23. Camels are engaged for transport. Transport is engaged for the whole period of tour at headquarters.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?

24. The khalasis take and bring post from the post office at camps situated away from post offices.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. All taluka headquarters and important villages.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. Except at some places, there are no fixed camping grounds. Ground is, as a rule, cleaned and levelled for tents, with the help of zamindars' men.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. Almost all camps are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. As a rule, only to camps in taluka headquarters.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. Bungalows are available at all taluka headquarters and several other places.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. A chowkidar, as a rule.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Rasai originally means assisting in procuring supplies; it has now come to mean procuring supplies free or at less cost than they are actually worth.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. Just the things mentioned in para. 11 above.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. My private servant has no separate daily requirements. He takes food at my kitchen.

My official establishment requires daily on tour per head (figures given by my head clerk) :—

Flour 1½ pau, rice ½ pau, ghee ¼ pau, meat ½ pau, vegetable 1 pice worth, milk ½ seer and firewood.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Prices of grain and rice vary in different seasons, I get no eggs, fowls, sheep or butter. Milk is sold in taluka headquarter towns at 2 annas a seer. Bajri and jowari stalks have no value in ordinary seasons, except at bigger places. Firewood has market value only at taluka headquarters; it is sold for 6 annas to 8 annas per maund.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Not ordinarily sold, I think; but that does not mean that these articles have no value and that every body can get them free of charge.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. The daily average cost of supplies for me and my private servant is about Rs. 1-4-0, i.e., about Rs. 40 per month. That for each clerk is about Rs. 16 per month.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. My servant is required to buy them directly from the bania in the village and I myself pay the latter personally on his bill on the last evening of my camp.

My office establishments are also required to buy from the bania and pay in my presence.

Milk is supplied by zamindars through the tapedar; the same about firewood.

The establishment get meat through the bania from a butcher. The bania is paid for it along with the bill for other supplies, in my presence.

(NOTE.—This is what happened at my camps when I was Deputy Collector).

38. How are they paid for?

38. Vide please answer to 37.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. There is no guarantee.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. My average daily cost is equal to actual payment, except that I have not been able to pay for milk and firewood at camps beyond taluka headquarters.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. Zamindars and haris would be chiefly the sufferers in case of excess cost at camps beyond taluka headquarters and tapedars at taluka headquarter camps.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. Yes, I suppose so.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. No, not for water jars and a cot that I get.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?

44. Very seldom; not on payment.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. No.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. No practical effect given to the rules of 1914. Tapedars have not ceased to collect supplies.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. I have no modifications to recommend. All that is required is earnestness on the part of all officials to put a stop to the evil of rasai. Without this all remedies will fail. Compulsory education of masses would be another effective remedy.

I have no faith in the contract system.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. Yes, as a rule, as Deputy Collector.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. No.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. I have had, though seldom, dhalis of vegetables and fruit from big zamindars only. I do not approve of the dhali system and discourage it as far as possible.

I have had no dhali for the last several months.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. Rs. 3 to 4 per dhali.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. There are no specific orders on the subject that I know of. I have found it difficult to refuse dhalis from most respectable zamindars when once they have brought them to me. Mostly I distribute dhalis among village children.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Lapo in the revenue department is what the tapedar levies unauthorizedly from each khateder over and above the authorized Government assessment on land.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. One form only that I know of in the revenue department.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedar from the zamindars for his own personal gain and on the pretence of doing rasai.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. At an anna and over per rupee of land revenue. In some places, lapo is levied per acre.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. The whole lapo goes into the pocket of the tapedar. In view of that he gives some months' pay towards the general rasai of the taluka in the rasai fund.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. Generally the headquarters' tapedar is in charge of the rasai fund under the supervision of the taluka head munshi or the mukhtiarkar.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. Money presents are paid to the private and official establishments of touring officials from the amounts contributed by tapedars. The amounts vary with the position of the respective subordinates. The presents are made out of the rasai fund.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. Exactions for particular favours do not go by the name of lapo. Such exactions are common in each of the departments mentioned.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. From the rasai fund to which each tapedar contributes, money presents are made to establishments of touring officials, partly with a view to mitigating the strictness of examination of official records and mainly to win their good-will to stop their harassing propensities.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. No.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No. From time to time circulars have been issued by district officers to stop the practice of the levy of lapo.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the land revenue code?

65. The stopping of rasai, as the term is now taken to mean, will greatly prevent the levy of lapo. At present mukhtiarkars, instead of exercising supervision to prevent the levy of lapo, even indirectly help the levy, because tapedars contribute to the rasai fund. If rasai did not exist, mukhtiarkars would be able to exercise proper control over the tapedars and prevent their mal-practices.

No modification of the rules under the land revenue code is necessary to prevent the levy of lapo.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Chher is the term applied to a body of men supplied by zamindars for working without wages.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Chheras are either haris under zamindars or men residing or making a living in their villages or near their lands.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Chheras are required for various kinds of labour, such as repairing roads, closing breaches in canals, pitching and unpitching tents and doing several small services.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Custom makes it an implied condition of holding land that the haris will perform such labour when asked by zamindars.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. No, except that they get food, twice a day, when they work only in connection with closing breaches.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. Not bound by any express orders or provision of law.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. Seris are an instance of such grants.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. Principally for pitching and unpitching tents and for helping in loading and unloading camels.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. None daily.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?

77. Some 10 or 15 men.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. The tapedar collects them through the zamindars.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. No.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. Rs. 5 per camp.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. Yes.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. I do not get labour for shikar. I do not indulge in that pastime.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Any amount sometimes.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

86. No.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. 500 men sometimes per day for a number of days.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. No, except food.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. I cannot be definite on this point. No glaring instances have come to my notice.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

90. To some extent no doubt.

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. It should wholly be suppressed. Paid labour should be employed as a rule.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. JAGATSING AILMAL.

To the Chairman—

I have no touring as Superintendent, Land Records, but I have been Deputy Collector for about 6 years and I have toured as Deputy Collector mostly in the Larkana district. I have worked as mukhtiarkar for 5 years, partly in the Hyderabad district, but mostly in the Larkana district.

My answers about touring refer generally to my tour as Deputy Collector. I used to keep a horse as Deputy Collector.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I have never personally made rasai for the Commissioner. The Commissioner did come to my taluka but I had no concern with his rasai. The head munshi told me that one year at Kambar it came to Rs. 500. He told me that in the previous years it came to Rs. 3,000. I was in Kambar in 1910. Most of the money must have gone into the pockets of subordinates and the munshis in cash payments. I could not give any figure as to the Collector's camp. The rasai would be considerable. I can't give any figure for the Assistant or Deputy Collector's camps. I found when I first inspected the bills of my establishment that it came to Rs. 2 per head for a day which led me to suppose that the supplies were gratis: they then fell to 2 annas a day per head. I believe they got annuities but I can't say anything as to the amount. There would be some difference, no doubt, between the expenses of the Deputy Collector and Assistant Collector's camps and a considerable amount of difference between the Deputy Collector and Collector's camps. I have never made rasai myself. Sometimes wines and liquors are indented for. The mukhtiarkars are asked to send for them from the district headquarters. The mukhtiarkar supplies the bills and sometimes I have heard that it is not paid. I could not specify any definite instance when the bill was not paid. It would be got from the regular dealers at headquarters. It could not be bought at the taluka headquarters. It would be bought from district headquarters. If a district officer ran short of wine he might send for the mukhtiarkar and ask him to replenish it for him. I have only heard it said that it is not paid for; mostly I think it is paid for.

I believe that bills are prepared in consultation with the butlers. The butler has probably had more than what his master needed, therefore he wants to restrict the bill to what his master actually had. The bill so drawn up is fully paid by the touring officers as a rule. My idea is that the money in many cases is taken by the butler; it might even be kept by the tapedars. I don't know of my personal knowledge whether it is so or not. There are various ways in which harassment can be caused by inspecting officers, such as calling for unnecessary returns of cases and making unpleasant remarks. The mukhtiarkars therefore consider it necessary to continue the rasai system including the cash payments. I don't say that the mukhtiarkar directly helps in the levy of lapo but he is in favour of it. I think lapo is intended for the tapedar, but in consideration of what he gets for lapo, it is expected that he should pay something towards the rasai. I believe he specifies rasai as a reason for the levy of lapo and particularly for raising the rate of lapo. I think the rate has been raised from one anna to one anna three pies or one anna six pies per rupee of assessment. If the rasai is stopped it would affect lapo, if the mukhtiarkars can keep proper supervision over the tapedars. The tapedar has substantial means for harassing the zamindars. The zamindars pay partly from timidity and partly from the belief that the tapedar has really the means of harassing. If a zamindar was not timid he might go and get some remedy from a high official. He would not get it from the mukhtiarkars. Many officials have not been in earnest in the matter of stopping rasai. By not being earnest I mean that they do not make any special efforts to stop it but they would be glad if it is stopped. In referring to superior officers I include the Deputy Collector, Assistant Collector and Collector. The mukhtiarkars are of course never in earnest. I certainly believe that Collectors would be glad to see that rasai is stopped. I think some Collectors have the reputation of having made special efforts to stop the rasai. I am not in a position to say what particular efforts they made to stop rasai. I hear that Messrs. Monie, Moysey and Beyts made special efforts. I don't know personally of the special efforts of those officers. I remember one instance in which Mr. Baker dismissed his butler on my complaint to him that he was troubling me. I was then mukhtiarkar in Ratodero and had stopped rasai there and given strict orders to the tapedars and supervising tapedars. It came to my notice that the butler omitted to give milk to the Collector until he was paid by a diwan who was a zamindar of the village. That was at the second camp of the taluka. At the third camp he did the same and Mr. Baker mentioned it to me. The butler did this, as it was the last camp of my taluka, and he tried to make a supreme effort. I told Mr. Baker that I had kept 4 goats for milk and there was no reason why the butler should not supply the milk. The butler was sent for and he could not give a satisfactory explanation and was then and there dismissed.

I personally supervised the roads from Naodero to the Ford Wah on the occasion of the visit of the Governor. It was made with the help of the zamindars. About 200 men were engaged. The road was about 2 or 3 miles in length and was made ready in 4 or 5 days. Six annas per chhera would be enough in those days. That was, I think, in 1913. I have known many instances in which roads were repaired by the chheras without payment. The zamindars raised no objection to repairing these roads. They don't object to the several forms of rasai. The chheras would of course like to get their daily wages. Special repairs are partly made for the Collector's tour. When zamindari chheras are employed they are not paid. The mukhtiarkars get the roads specially repaired before the arrival of the Collector in order to show him that they have been doin good work.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I don't think that a subsidied bania contractor would improve matters. It would not prevent the levy of lapo. It would be an advantage that anyone wanting supplies should obtain them on payment directly from the bania.

The tapedar has power to help the zamindar or otherwise, in the matter of grant of lands, because he is the only man in attendance on the Deputy Collector at the time of the kutcheri for the grant of lands. I have never personally done the kutcheri work but I have heard about it. There the zamindar sees the tapedar and thinks that he really has powers to help or harm him. The mukhtiarkar is not present at the time of kutcheries.

To the Chairman—

I don't believe in supervising tapedars as they exist now. It would be much better to substitute deputy mukhtiarkars. Now the tapedar and supervising tapedar are practically on the same level. The deputy mukhtiarkars would be more honest. As a class the deputy mukhtiarkars would be independent, whereas the supervising tapedars now combine with the tapedars to make as much as they can. There would have to be at least two deputy mukhtiarkars for each taluka. That would require time to consider. They would be in the head munshi's grade or a little better than head munshis and expect to rise to be mukhtiarkars and deputy collectors.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I would not be prepared to say without further consideration that it would be possible to subdivide a taluka into 2 or 3 talukas.

To the Chairman—

I think the cost would be prohibitive to split the taluka into 3 talukas.

Lapo would really be stopped when the mukhtiarkars are in earnest to stop it. They would only be earnest when the rasai is stopped.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I rose to my present position without making rasai.

To the Chairman—

The mukhtiarkars think they might cause displeasure if they did not make rasai.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MAHOMED KAMILSHAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mahomed Kamilshah.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindari.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. Rupees 17,000 land revenue.

4. Residence. — 4. Saidpur, taluka Guni, district Hyderabad, Sind.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistr . — 5. Vice-president, taluka local board, Guni.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. It means rasad or supply of provisions.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 15 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Saidpur and Dhadho in Hyderabad district. Sujawal and Budho Talpur in Karachi district.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. All officers from the tapedar to the Commissioner in the Revenue Department. From the Sub-divisional Officer to the Superintending Engineer in the Public Works Department. From the sub-inspector to the Superintendent of Police in the Police Department.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. I get them on payment, except milk which I get partly from my own house and partly from my haris. Sometimes I buy it.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. I buy them. If I get them from my haris and others I pay for them. I do not obtain the supplies from other zamindars.

13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? — 13. I pay for them at rates which vary from time to time.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. If I get firewood from the jungles through my haris I pay for it at the rate of 2 annas a load. If I get it from the bazaar I pay at the rate of 4 annas a load.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. It depends on the officers' requirements. Generally it amounts from 2 to 4 rupees.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. It depends on the numerical strength of the establishment. The cost per man is 8 annas.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. From Re. 1 to Rs. 1-8-0 per munshi.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? — 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp? — 22. It depends on the period of stay and the number of persons.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? — 23. I always receive payment from Assistant Collectors and officers of higher grades. The money sometimes is and sometimes is not taken back by the butlers. Generally it is taken back by the butlers.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on me, and not on my haris.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. I spend nothing and receive nothing.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. No.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. The cost varies with the number of men. I receive no payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. Rs. 300 per year.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I have made rasai myself since the year 1914, but the tapedar and the mukhtiarkar had something to do with it.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. Answered under No. 23. I prepare bills.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of tapedars and zamindars.

35 Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Contractors can be found, provided they are allowed some increase in the rates of articles.

36. What are your special objections to rasai and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. We suffer pecuniary and other losses. Independent contractors should be appointed, and officers should watch carefully. Camp establishments should be curtailed, and criminal cases should not be tried in camp.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I present dhalis and vegetables. It costs me nothing if things are from my own garden. If the things are bought I spend from 5 to 8 rupees.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. The practice should not be prohibited by Government.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means a fixed charge.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. It is levied in the form of cash, grain, and grass. It is levied in the Revenue, Police and the Public Works Departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. In some places it is levied in the form of a percentage, in others in lump sum, and in others at a certain rate per survey number.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by tapedars, supervising tapedars, daroghas, sub-divisional officers and sub-inspectors who seem determined to harass and disrespect people in the event of their refusing to pay it.

The zamindars, haris and maldars pay it, with a view to save themselves from harassment.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of rasai for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I make rasai as well as pay lapo.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. I make money presents to peons, butlers, cooks and servants of officers so that they may not prejudice their masters against me. To others I pay annuities.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is paid, not for particular favours, but to save oneself from loss of respect and other losses.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Answered under No. 42. Muccadums on canals and the peons of tapedars and supervising tapedars also levy it.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. From 700 to 800 rupees

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. It has not been reduced but the trouble involved in the payment of assessment has decreased.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. The powers of lapo-takers should be curtailed. Land revenue should be made payable by money order free of commission. The tapedars should be held responsible for any difference in the bills of assessment given by them. These bills should be furnished before 15th December. The Deputy Collector should find out whether the bills were received in time or not; and the tapedar should be held responsible for delay. Boundary marks should be of stone instead of earthen mounds. The expenses should be incurred by Government in the first instance and then recovered by the zamindars in instalments. The daroghas should not impound cattle which go about on a canal for drinking water or grazing or which cross a canal, as Government canals have no fence or wall to them. The police officials are very ill-behaved. Their own and revenue officers should keep a strict eye on them. The revenue and judicial functions should be separated.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour employed without remuneration.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are mostly haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. They are called on to close breaches on canals and the river; to clear canals; to repair roads and to attend the camps of officers.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No such condition is imposed except for the benefit of cultivation.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. They are only fed by the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. For the mukhtiarkar 5; for the Assistant Collector 20; for the Collector 30; for the Commissioner 100; for the Superintendent of Police 15; for the Engineer15.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing from officers. They get food only from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. For snipe-shooting 3 and for partridge, quail and duck shooting from 5 to 10 chheras are required.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come willingly as they get money presents from the officers.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. The number depends on the quantity of work.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. They are of some benefit to the public also.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. They get nothing either from the officers or local boards, but they get food only from the zamindars.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number depends on the amount of work.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get food from the zamindars; also wages (though not full) from the subordinate officials, for the days the Executive Engineer is there. When the Executive Engineer is not there they get no wages.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and zamindars?

67. Yes

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. It could be procured by a contractor on payment of proper wages.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Chher should be abolished except for the purpose of closing breaches on canals and the river when chheras from the immediate neighbourhood alone may be employed for a short time only.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. MAHOMED KAMILSHAH.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

If we did not make rasai we should suffer in reputation by being harassed in correspondence, by difficulty in getting gun licenses and chairs and so forth. The police would trouble us by troubling our haris and by making reports against us in connection with chairs and complaining that we are not assisting the police.

Once or twice I have paid to the Collector's butler Rs. 5 or 10, but never to the Commissioner's butler. They are paid through the mukhtiarkar. I have given Rs. 5 to the Assistant Collector's butler. I have also made rasai for Indian Deputy Collectors. The rasai for European Assistant Collectors would cost me somewhat more than that of the Indians. The Indians live less expensively than the Europeans. The establishments pay nothing for their supplies. Sometimes the bills of the officers are prepared in consultation with the butlers. The bills are prepared properly, both as regards the quantities and the rates. Sometimes some things are shown at lower rates, but on the average the full rates would be shown. The money received on the bills is sometimes kept, sometimes paid back to the butler. If supplies are not given to the munshis, the cash is paid to them instead. I only give cash presents to the servants and the pattawallas and not to the munshis.

The only effect of the circular of 1914 is that rasai is made by the big zamindar and the small zamindars get off free. The officers pay but sometimes the money is returned back to the butlers. The establishments don't pay.

There is neither loss nor profit on the rules of 1914. Before 1914 the tapedars bought supplies at the taluka headquarters. Assistance was given by the zamindars outside headquarter towns.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I should be able to find an independent contractor for the taluka. The rasai falls now on the zamindar who has been fixed as contractor. It would be possible to get a contractor with a subsidy of Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 to provide supplies for all camps. It would depend upon the number of camps in each taluka. He would be able to get the supplies without the interference of the tapedar and the zamindar. He can then be bound down to the scheduled rates.

To Mr. Mahmudshah—

The judicial powers assist the tapedar, that is to say, the mukhtiarkars, head munshis, because criminal cases could be brought before these officers. I can't remember any case in which a criminal complaint was brought against the zamindar for not paying towards rasai and lapo. One of my kamdars had been fined for allowing water to over-flow on the roads.

To the Chairman—

If he had made the rasai properly then his offence would have been unnoticed.

To Mr. Mahmudshah—

I assist the police in Government work. I was once reported for not helping the police, that was 10 or 12 years ago. I don't remember any report since then against me, at least it is without my knowledge.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHAINRAI BULCHAND.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Chainrai Bulchand.

2. Appointment. — 2. Assistant Manager, Sind Encumbered Estates.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Hyderabad.

4. Length of service. — 4. 14 years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 14 years; 3 years as mukhtiarkar, mostly in Larkana and Kandhkote talukas, and nearly 4 years a deputy collector in Upper Sind Frontier district.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. Nil, assistant manager is not a touring officer. If occasionally he has to go to watch any case in any of the district courts, he has to be guest of a private friend of his.

7 and 8. Nil.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? — 9. Only one peon.

10—18. Nil.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 19. None.

20—30. I presume this does not require to be answered by me, as I have been in my present office for about 2 years, and I have had not to tour.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 31. Rasai, I understand, is an arrangement for supply of provisions for an officer's camp; for part of which payment is made; though for most of it it is not.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? — 32. None at present; though as mukhtiarkar and deputy collector, grass and grain for 2 horses, fuel and meat (while I used to take it). I took no milk either. A few jars and a cot or two were wanted besides.

33—42. I presume these are not to be answered by me.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? — 43. I presume this is not to be replied to by me, though I never made any payment for these things.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds? — 44. None at present; though as deputy collector or as mukhtiarkar, I used to have them from gardens maintained by local funds.

45 and 46. I presume this is not to be replied to by me.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? — 47. I saw the working of the rules of 1914 for nearly 2 years. Tapedars all the same had to assist the zamindar otherwise responsible under settlement with him, in collecting provisions and other necessary materials from other neighbouring zamindars and the local haris.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? — 48. I was of opinion that a contractor would be difficult to secure and the camp establishment could easily defeat the system of having contractors by refusing to have anything from them, except meat, grass, vegetables and milk, as they could, if they choose to, carry at least a fortnight's supply with them. The contractor would usually be able to supply such things at a higher rate than they could have them at in a headquarter bazaar. Since I thought a weekly bazaar running through taluka villages was not possible in Sind, and since supply of provisions, etc., was necessary, I considered that it might be worth while trying to give small serigrants to some zamindars (not large land-holders who could not and would not complain of non-payments to them, but such land-holders who could not afford to keep quiet under non-payments) and make them bound to supply them.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. I used to find that very difficult.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. I understand this is not to be answered by me.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. I understand this is not to be answered by me, though I used to have none.

52 and 53. Not to be answered by me, I think.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. I understand lapo to be customary cash payments received by revenue tapedars.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. I know of only one form of lapo described in answer to question 54, though there are dasturis paid to subordinates of other departments too, besides other kinds of illegal gratifications.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Lapo is an old customary dun levied by tapedars from zamindars. It at present serves chiefly the purpose of hush-money. Tapedars who are paid lapo in full would not care to report the faults of those who pay them, e.g., for bad boundary marks, unauthorised occupation of land, or unauthorised water supply.

57. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. Sometimes it is levied per jireb, sometimes per survey number, and at times in lump, and sometimes per cent. of cash assessed as land revenue.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. I would not say that lapo money is directly used as rasai fund, though tapedars had to leave some months' pay, according to need, to be collected into a fund for payment of illegal gratification to inspecting officers' establishments.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. This fund used to be managed by the taluka head munshi or by some supervising tapedar under direct supervision of taluka head munshi.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. First part is already answered. As to the second, I could not give the exact amounts.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue irrigation, police and forests?'

61. Please find answer under question 56, so far as matters of land revenue were concerned. I cannot say much about the other departments.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. My own opinion is that the strictness of examination of official records is not affected by the payment of illegal gratifications, though since the inspecting officer generally has not time enough to wade through the whole of the list of mistakes, usually a volume in itself, special mistakes are hushed or prominently brought to notice by the establishment according to sufficiency or otherwise of the payment received.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. I do not think so, though it was levied under some fear after those rules.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the land-revenue code?

65. I do not think it could be prevented, except by zamindars refusing to pay it, and bearing the usual consequences of such refusal for some time until the system is weakened. These consequences must happen so long as our revenue system has its complications. It will be too large a question to discuss, if these complications can be removed or how.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. I understand chher is a call on the local haris to do some menial services, generally without payment, or only on promise of a little food given them by their zamindars, except when the call is made by Public Works Department, when some cash payment is made.

67. Who are the "Chheras"?

67. Local haris.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. To make roads, pitch tents, build temporary landhis, to help in excavation of canals, &c.

69. Do the "Chheras" hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. The conditions are implied, though resented in several cases now-a-days.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. No, except for a little food occasionally provided by their zamindars.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. I do not think it is to be answered by me. But it was very often not available at all.

72. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Used to be, but that maintained by local funds.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. They are not bound, but they usually felt bound and not unoften to their interest. Since that gave them influence over their haris (raj) and even neighbouring zamindars. This idea however was found by me to be gradually, though very slowly, dying out.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. Small seri grants or mamul grants, but only for helping in prevention or discovery of offences.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. Used to be for pitching tents and fetching water and keeping guard.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. Used to be about 5 or 6 daily, though twice the number in days of pitching and unpitching camp.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. Answered under question 76.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. Used to be through zamindars.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. They were not paid by me. 2nd part is answered under question 70.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. I think about 2 to 3 rupees a day for a deputy collector's camp. I do not think it could be provided by a contractor, except in district headquarters and very few taluka headquarters.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. I think so, at least mostly, but it would, in these days of high prices, be charged at higher rates than what ordinary establishment costs, and would entail increase in the pay of permanent menial establishment as well.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. None.

83 and 84. Not necessary for me to answer.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Zamindars' haris are usually called upon to repair roads when the Commissioner or the Collector has to pass along them.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

86. No, except for a little food.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

87. The local haris are called up through their zamindars.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

88. They are paid by Government, but not enough for the daily wage, though enough for the reluctant work they do, zamindars sometimes feed them.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

89. Not very much, though in some rare cases much from a particular zamindar's interest.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?

90. It is only a few beldars, one or two, who are employed in carrying officers' post with a basket of vegetables. It does not interfere quite so much with their ordinary work.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

92. I think chher should not be suppressed altogether, i.e., impressing of labour for Government or irrigation urgent work, but it must be paid for at 25% more than the usual daily wage, and it should be paid daily.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CHAINRAI BULCHAND.

To the Chairman—

It is the deputy manager who goes on tour to look after the estates. The assistant manager always stays in Hyderabad.

I think the chher ought to be paid 25% more on account of the compulsion exercised.

I can't give any information as to lapo from my experience as assistant manager.

The zamindars don't keep any accounts and the only entries are in the banias' books. I have found on 2 or 3 occasions entries in the banias' books of kharach kate which means illegal gratifications. The entries did not show to whom they were paid; they were only vague entries.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

We generally disallow the items without going into detail. This work is generally done by the Manager. When I discovered these instances I was acting manager.

In the Upper Sind Frontier the rasai for the Deputy Commissioner and also the Deputy Collector is generally made by the zamindars. I was there from 1912-1915. Rasai was done to a very small extent by the tapedar. It was mostly done by zamindars before 1914. It was not found possible to carry out the circular of 1914 wholly into effect. We fixed certain zamindars for certain camps, but the officers could not always keep to their programme and send timely information of their camps, so the zamindars complained of the new orders. Nevertheless the zamindars continued to work, but always complained that it was an unnecessary burden, specially as regards the other departments, e.g., the Public Works Department, the Police and the Forest, for which they had never done rasai before. I can think of 4 or 5 zamindars who made rasai out of hospitality, not the others who did it very unwillingly. But even those who did it willingly would not wish to do it away from their villages, e.g., bungalows. The zamindars only paid cash tips to the menials; the establishments got their cash payment at the taluka headquarters out of the special collections made by the tapedars from the zamindars.

The bania used to come and report that he got all the money for the provisions supplied to the menials and establishment, but I could not always believe that he did. The bania generally kept the accounts, as he had dealings with the zamindars. He generally charged the zamindars. At least one instance of that kind came to my notice. If there was no zamindar available to do the rasai, then the bania looked to the tapedar for payment.

I understand that zamindari supplies were collected from the haris. We got money from the officers, but I couldn't say whether the money reached the actual providers. It either went to the tapedar or perhaps was given to the small zamindar who kept it to himself, and in some cases it went to the butler. The tapedars used to tell me that they prepared the bills in consultation with the butler. This was to ensure that the amounts in the bills were not very heavy. My own opinion was that most of

the articles taken for the officers were really taken by the menials and the establishment, and so they took care that the bills should be as low as possible. I only remember one instance in which the tapedar complained that the butler wanted the bills to be prepared with rates reduced.

The fund at the taluka headquarters was made up from the tapedar's pay supplemented by some contributions from the zamindars. I learnt from the head munshi that there were certain annuities for the taluka munshis. I am speaking now of Larkana where I was mukhtiarkar for nearly 2 years. In 1908 the tindal's fee was Rs. 25 for pitching the Commissioner's camp. The supervising tapedar came to me and told me that the tindal had raised his demand to Rs. 35, and he wouldn't pitch the tents without it. I went and looked at the tindal and I asked him if the camping ground had been prepared; he said, yes, and I then told the supervising tapedar to pay the usual fee only; there was then no further trouble; that is the fee called kilokhorani. The fee to the butler is not kilokhorani; it is a kind of customary payment. If he did not get it, he would probably create trouble by making complaints to his master. I came across one instance in Larkana where the butler took in tea without milk to the Collector, while my man was actually standing outside ready with the milk; he called out that he had got the milk ready; the Collector came outside and said that he did not mind taking tea without milk. My man came and reported this to me.

I have not personally seen any ill-treatment by menials or peons, but I have heard pattewallas talking in an insulting way to the zamindars who were present, while I was waiting to see the Collector. I think the zamindars feel that they must do rasai lest they suffer, but I don't think that they do it in the hope of getting chairs or licenses. I don't think that the zamindars ought to mind whether they get chairs or not on ordinary occasions, but I think the chair system ought to be retained for the durbars. The Collector is accessible to even small zamindars if he has the time; he may shew particular displeasure towards a zamindar by refusing to see him.

I have noticed that a few mukhtiarkars think that they would get promotions, if they made good rasai; but I don't think they are justified in that idea.

I had to attend to two camps only of the Commissioner in Sind, one at Mirpur Mathelo for 3 days and the other at Shikarpur for 6 days as mukhtiarkar. The cost of the Mirpur Mathelo camp including the cost of repairing the roads came to about Rs. 700. The Commissioner went from Larkana to Kambar for the X'mas camp for 8 days. From there he went to the river to his steamer and the total expenses for all that time were about Rs. 1,000. That would include the expenses of bringing the post from Larkana to Kambar. My rupees 1,000 include expenses of the Larkana mukhtiarkar only, but not those of the Kambar mukhtiarkar. I had to keep 5 or 6 tongas for the purpose of sending out telegrams and supplies received from time to time from Karachi. The special charges for tongas would be about Rs. 20. I only paid for the tongas for the days they were actually used. I can't say how many tongas the mukhtiarkar of Kambar kept. Some of the tongas came to Larkana from Kambar. There are some local tongas at Kambar, but there are more tongas at Larkana.

I think about ½ mile of road to the river was made by the zamindars' chheras. It was an easy road through wheat land. It was after the crop was reaped. There was no crop then.

To the Chairman—

There is a telegraph line from Larkana to Kambar. The tongas were mostly used for sending supplies.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

My supervising tapedar at Larkana reported that the Commissioner's butler wanted Rs. 75. The supervising tapedar enquired from the mukhtiarkars of other talukas and ascertained that it was the usual charge, plus some presents in kind, worth Rs. 20 to Rs. 25.

I think the zamindars would be harassed if they stopped paying lapo sometimes, but I don't think without their own fault, that is to say without committing irregularities which would give opportunities of harassment by the tapedar. I enquired into complaints against the zamindars and found that they were generally true; very few cases were untrue. But the cases would not have been reported, if the tapedar had been paid something by the zamindar. It was in my capacity, both as mukhtiarkar and deputy collector.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I had managed to stop the rasai fund in Kandhkot taluka, even before the rules of 1914. It was with the help of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Martin. I don't mean rasai but the fund collected at the headquarters by the establishment. I presume that it did not revive after 1914. After 1914 the establishments of the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Collector were not paid their annuities. Rasai meaning free supplies was not stopped after 1914. Even after 1914 the tapedar had to assist the zamindar in getting supplies. Lapo continued after the rules of 1914. I think lapo will continue, even if rasai ceases.

I think the cost of actual necessary supplies of the Commissioner's camp at Mirpur Mathelo would be about Rs. 100 for the Commissioner and his establishment.

I think I sent for fruit, worth Rs. 100, for the various zamindars, and asked them how much they would take; some took Rs. 20, some took Rs. 5 or Rs. 2, otherwise the zamindars would not have been able to get the fruit. The zamindars at Larkana did not get dhalis through me as mukhtiarkar of Larkana. The dhalis can be had there in the bazaar. I think I had to spend Rs. 50 to get flowers from various places, as they were scarce in January. The rest would be cash payments and the cost of the chheras.

I found the graduate mukhtiarkars generally against the rasai fund. That is why we were able to stop the rasai fund in the Upper Sind Frontier district, because all 5 mukhtiarkars were graduates and I got Mr. Martin's permission to write demi-officially about the matter to other mukhtiarkars. I think the officers could reduce rasai to a very great extent but it would be very difficult to stop lapo. I used to try surprise visits to the tapedars to count the money in their hand and found it was correct; but I generally found the money correct, because they expected my visit; but I believe that they did take lapo. I had one case in which the tapedar assaulted a zamindar, in order to get lapo, and I had the tapedar punished. That was in Kandhkot, where I was mukhtiarkar. In course of time lapo will stop when better educated people are appointed as tapedars.

To the Chairman—

There are 5 or 6 supervising tapedars in each taluka. I don't think the work could be done, even by two additional mukhtiarkars in the taluka, unless the inspection work was reduced. I don't think that with the appointment of two deputy mukhtiarkars in the taluka, the mukhtiarkar would be able to get through all the work of inspection and correspondence direct with the zamindars.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I think the contract system might succeed, if the contractors were subsidised to sell at ordinary rates; even then it would be difficult as far as the Sub-divisional Officer and the mukhtiarkars are concerned, because they have to pay surprise visits.

I think the seri grants should be about 20 to 40 acres according to the soil. The grantee would be bound to provide zamindari supplies and also labour on payment. He might be harassed by the establishments, but he could complain to the officers, and it would be alright, if punishments were inflicted. He would be a zamindar of such a position that he would not aspire to get any special favours from the officers. I think the seri-grant system would have a better chance of success than the contract system.

To the Chairman—

The practice is for the mukhtiarkar to meet the superior officers at the boundary of his taluka and remain with them at the various camps till they leave the taluka. A great part of the time of the mukhtiarkar is so taken up during the busy season, which might be usefully employed in inspection. I think it would be sufficient if the mukhtiarkar met his superior officer at the first camp and there settled the camps at which the mukhtiarkar would have to attend on him during the tour of his taluka. The mukhtiarkars do not generally attend the camps of the Deputy Collector and the Assistant Collector after the first camp.

I am doubtful if the stopping of rasai will even partially decrease lapo, unless the pay of the tapedars is increased.

To Mr. Sawhney—

The zamindars paid for the fruit they took for the Commissioner's camp. That Rs. 100 might therefore be deducted from the total cost of the Commissioner's camp. On that occasion we fed the chheras from the rasai fund, as the zamindars were not willing to feed them. The supervising tapedars have on several occasions pointed out the errors of the tapedars. There would be less chance of such mistakes being found by the mukhtiarkars. The supervising tapedars make their own exactions. They don't get anything out of the tapedar's lapo.

I think it would be a good idea to reduce the size of the talukas. It would enable the mukhtiarkars to pay better attention to the complaints that are received, but I don't think it would reduce lapo. The mukhtiarkars would have greater opportunities of seeing whether the complaints of tapedars were correct.

I am doubtful whether the subsidised contractor or the bania would be able to get the local supplies, it would be better to give grants of lands. I have not particularly thought over the subsidy question, but prefer the seri-holder to an independent contractor. I think the seri-holder will serve all the departments; for the first year he might prefer the Revenue Department. I have been against rasai but I made it at Mirpur Mathelo for the first time and was much disgusted at the experience.

I have been fortunate in my officers and have risen in spite of not making rasai. I hope to rise by doing good work.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I think, excluding these chheras, more goes in cash payments, generally to Collectors' and Assistant Collectors' camps, than actual supplies.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. VASTIRAM DIALMAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Vastiram Dialmal.

2. Appointment. — 2. Resident Magistrate.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Tando Adam.

4. Length of service. — 4. 19 years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 19 years; 9 years' experience as mukhtiarkar.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. No touring to do in my present appointment.

7—30. I am not in a touring appointment, hence these paras. and other like paras. have been left blank.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 31. Rasai nominally is understood to mean making arrangements for the supply of provisions at camps, but includes annuities paid to inspecting establishments and menials (private and official) attached to such establishments and to inspecting officers; and also covers various sorts of expenses incurred in connection with camps of touring officers.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? — 35. Milk, stalks and firewood are certainly not on sale in small villages, as every inhabitant in these villages provides himself with firewood by his own labour, keeps his own cows, goats and buffaloes and has a stock of stalks.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? — 47. The rules have failed in general to put a stop to annuities paid to inspecting establishments and to menials of inspecting officers and establishments. They have however in some places secured freedom from the tapedar's interference in the collection of supplies, the zamindar doing that duty, though in a few places not quite willingly.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? — 48. I do not think it will be possible to find a contractor to supply provisions; but some of the present hardships might be mitigated, if all the inspecting officers would be as earnest as some are; if invariably intimation was given to the zamindar concerned of the quantities required for the whole camp; if payments to the whole camp were made personally by the head of the establishment. At present intimation is sent, if at all, only in respect of the requirements of the head of the establishment, but it is necessary that it should cover the requirements of the whole camp.

The pay of the peons who have to do hard work on tour must be raised. Government would not get any peons on the present pay, if the unauthorised dues did not go with it.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? — 54. Lapo is the amount given by the zamindar to the tapedar in proportion to the extent of the cultivation in the year, calculated at so much per jireb or per survey number.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? — 55. There is only one form of lapo that I know of.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? — 56. The zamindar pays this lapo and the tapedar receives it. The supervising tapedar also receives his lapo from the zamindars and the tapedars in his charge. This is more properly called saliano. Coming to saliano the taluka head munshi, the mukhtiarkar's private and official servants, the taluka office munshis, the divisional and district office and menial establishments are paid it by the tapedar. The tapedar besides contributes towards the payments of the saliano by the taluka offices to the district and divisional offices who, in addition to annuities paid by individual tapedars whose records are inspected by them, are in receipt

of consolidated sums from the taluka offices. The ostensible purpose in each case of the levy and payment of each lapo is immunity from the vindictive oppressiveness which seeks to harm, in order to compel payment of lapo and saliano.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. It is levied in each case in cash; presents of articles, such as ghee, etc., in addition, are not uncommon. The tapedar levies his lapo at so much per survey number or per jireb for the total cultivation in the year. The supervising tapedar gets his saliano from the zamindars and the tapedars in his charge at fixed amounts per year. The district and divisional office and menial establishments get their salianos from the taluka office and their inspecting fees and annuities from individual tapedars and supervising tapedars at fixed amounts per year.

58. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. My idea is that the tapedar levies a separate amount for rasai from the zamindar but has to pay from his lapo also for the rasai. The rasai at the headquarters is attended to from the rasai fund; but in the villages by each tapedar individually. The lapo is quite independent of the rasai fund.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. In some places the head munshi of the taluka office manages the rasai fund but mostly the tapedar at headquarters manages it.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. About two-thirds of the lapo may be going towards the payment of the annuities to private and official establishment of touring officers on his own account and towards the account of the rasai fund. The amounts of annuities, varying in different places from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per year, are paid to each of the divisional and district offices on the account of the inspection of the taluka office; Rs. 12 to Rs. 21 by each tapedar on his own account as inspection fee of his record. Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 mukhtiarkar's private servant for the year; Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 by each tapedar per year to taluka head munshi (there are some head munshis who do not take annuities and in some places the practice does not prevail). Divisional and district menial establishments, private and official, are paid by the tapedar from Rs. 13 to Rs. 20 per year, besides food at varying rates or at actual cost which is given to the office establishment alike.

The rasai fund is utilised for expenses on camps at headquarters and by taluka offices. The expenses of the camps in villages are met by the tapedars concerned. Sometimes 2 or 3 tapedars are joined to meet the expenses of the same camp when it is a heavy camp and too frequently visited.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. Particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, etc., carry their own price according to the kind of favour sought.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. To a great extent default in payment of annuities to divisional offices particularly entails transfer from a good tapa, i.e., where earnings from lapo are greater, to a bad tapa where these earnings are less.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. To a slight extent only. Lapo is not now demanded as a matter of right and openly exacted. Some of the zamindars have even ceased paying lapo, but their numbers are fast decreasing, as they are made to feel the pressure of the tapedar's ill-will.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. (1) Raise the tapedar's pay. It requires very great raising. It is now too inadequate, considering both the amount and the nature of work he has to do. The work of the tapedar requires also to be very greatly curtailed. It is now too much beyond his power. With work curtailed he would deserve as much as 100 per cent. increase on his present pay. He is the man who is turned to for everything.

(2) Raise the status of the supervising tapedar. He supervises and checks the work of the tapedar, which is of a responsible kind. His status must be raised ever so far above that of the tapedar. They are now on equal status and are easily participants in acts of wrong-doing and oppression against zamindars, instead of one being a check on the other.

The cost of administration would be considerably increased; but it would be necessary, if Government would stop lapo.

If there were no lapo, I do not think Government would get the men; it has now on Rs. 20—25 per mensem. That means the pay (which must include lapo; for that is in fact the thing which attracts the man to the place) of the present tapedar is being borne by the zamindars and the Government together.

There is a misconception that by stopping rasai, lapo would discontinue; the converse proposition may be true. If there were no lapo, there would be no rasai. But I do not think it is true that lapo has its genesis in rasai. It is true that rasai has set its seal of sanction on lapo system. But lapo has its origin in the small pay of the tapedar wholly inadequate, entirely incommensurate with the responsibility of the work, and will continue so long as the present cheap tapedar of low pay is in being. Stopping rasai will reduce the dimensions of the lapo system, just even as it has confirmed it, but the lapo will never be abolished under the present system of cheap subordinate service.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Chher means a collection of haris for the doing of labour without cash payments or such minimum payment as the employer is pleased to make without regard to the value of the work done.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Chheras are haris of zamindars doing labour without expectation of any payment. It is a term of contempt implying great want of self-respect in the class of persons of whom spoken.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Chheras are called on to perform the following kinds of work on behalf of Government through zamindars:—Making repairs to roads, dressing camp-grounds, pitching tents of touring officers, fetching water, grass, wood, cleaning stables, sitting-up at night to keep watch at camps of touring officers (in some places), repairs of breaches in canals, clearing up extensive grounds in local fund gardens once a year for show-up at the time of inspection of touring officers.

On behalf of zamindars.—Cultivation of seri land for the zamindar, wet-clearance of karias, fetching grass, firewood for zamindars, and even building landhis for them when not requiring skilled labour.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. There is an implied condition that a chhera would do such labour when called upon by the zamindars for food given to him by the zamindar during the time he is engaged in the work. Conditions are however fast changing and instances are multiplying in which the haris refuse to do the work or require payment for the work done for the zamindars. A class of serero haris, who do personal labour, but do not own plough cattle, is rising; the cattle being supplied either by the zamindars or by the haris. It is the hari who ploughs the field with his own cattle who gives trouble to the zamindar.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. No remuneration is paid in cash, but food only is given to them at the cost of the zamindar.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Casual labour would generally be available at all places.

72. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Some taluka local boards may maintain beldars about 30 a month for the year, but they are often not obtainable or obtainable only in small numbers after the harvesting of the crops when the roads must have been already touched up by the zamindars owing to the visits of touring officers.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. No legal obligation but the fear of official displeasure is great. Very often the service is cheerfully offered and rendered under the prompting of an expectation of a reward which may also meet with disappointment.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. None that I know of.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. Would vary according to the size of the camp and the amount of labour required. Rasai contractor, if obtainable, could manage to get casual paid labour.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. Yes.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. Zamindars give them food.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Thorough repairs to roads by local board agency are often not done either for want of beldars or for want of funds. They have to be hurried through at the time of visits of officers. The zamindars are then pressed to do the work of repairs. New roads are sometimes improvized for inspecting officers, with zamindari labour.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

86. Nothing. I remember having paid at one time out of local funds a very inadequate sum for repairs done by the zamindars which however never reached the haris, and I believe that the zamindars had a right to keep it, as the cost of food charges incurred by them for the labour employed was much greater.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. Depends on the extent of breaches and the amount of floods.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. The zamindars give them food. Government sometimes pay to the zamindars for the earth excavated.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. Very much.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

90. One of the beldars is appropriated by the mistri who has now given place to local fund sub-overseer who will doubtless alike appropriate one, and one even two are appropriated by the mukhtiarkar, one by the head munshi and a batch for work at the camps of touring officers and their establishment. The ordinary work of beldars under the local board is therefore necessarily interfered with on account of the above practice.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

91. None.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. Should be wholly suppressed, work being done by contract; section 58 of the Irrigation Act being sufficient safeguard for emergency occasions.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. VASTIRAM.

To the Chairman—

I have been 10 years in revenue offices, i.e., those of the mukhtiarkars, Assistant Collectors and Collectors; 9 years a mukhtiarkar and two months resident magistrate. I would raise the supervising tapedar to the status of deputy mukhtiarkar. I don't think you could decrease the number of supervising tapedars, even if it were possible to employ graduates.

The casual labour available would be haris, either not then employed or taken away for the purpose from cultivation.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The preparations for the camp of touring officers consist in clearing the ground and stocking provisions, such as grass, fuel, fowls, eggs, butter, cots and jars. The roads are specially repaired when places are visited by the Collector. Last time I left the roads out of order, as I got the intimation of the visit of the Collector very late. It is the duty of the mukhtiarkar to keep roads in order as vice-president of the taluka local board. The roads require a good deal of money. The grants of the local boards are not sufficient. That is why we employ the zamindari chher. The special repairs to the roads are made on the visits of the Collector and the Commissioner. There may be some 30 or 40 miles to be so repaired. The maximum number of chheras employed might be 20 to 25 per mile. The roads are not blocked for other traffic when the Collector is coming, but they are blocked when the Commissioner is coming. I have known instances of road diversions through the fields. They are more convenient than the repairs to old roads.

The supplies are generally paid for by the officers; milk and butter is paid for, but generally wood and grass are not paid for. Generally the butler interferes in the preparation of the bills. I remember an instance in which a zamindar asked me to prepare the bill. I told him to prepare it in full and I heard that the bill was afterwards reduced by the butler from Rs. 38 to Rs. 13. The butler perhaps appropriated to himself most of the things. The bill is paid by the officers concerned, but in

some cases the amount is taken back by the menials, except if the zamindar is strong enough and is able to resist the bullying of the butler. I have heard complaints of tapedars and zamindars being insulted by the butlers and pattewallas. They complained that they had been abused. Sometimes the zamindars' people would be beaten. I have heard of the haris' beards being pulled.

The establishments don't pay for their provisions. They also get cash payments, but not at that time but afterwards. It is only the menial establishment which gets payments on tour. The establishments get the tips when the inspection and tour is over. There are regular fixed annuities for the establishments of the mukhtiarkars, Assistant Collector and the Collector. I had experience on one occasion of payment of Rs. 116 to the whole peon and menial establishment of the Commissioner. That was before the rules of 1914. A large amount, about Rs. 100, would be appropriated by the butlers. The Collector's butler would get Rs. 10 cash and Rs. 1-4-0 either in cash for liquor or liquor itself at each camp. The Assistant Collector's butler would get sometimes but rarely Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 and also a bottle of the country liquor. I never had to pay kilokhorani. The supervising tapedar complained to me at one camp that the butler refused to have the tents pitched, unless he was paid a fee. The case occurred when the Commissioner's camp was at Dhoro Naro on the way to Umerkot. The Assistant Commissioner wired to know if the camp tents were pitched. The supervising tapedar reported to me that the tents were not pitched, as the butler demanded a fee. The chitnis of the Collector was also there and intervened and told the butler that it was his fault if he did not get the tents pitched and the camp was then pitched without payment of any fee. Such payment might be called kilokhorani. Some butlers have even claimed to sit on chairs with mukhtiarkars.

I know the expenses of the Commissioner's camp on one occasion came to Rs. 100 a day, 12 days Rs. 1,300. I should think the Collector's camp costs Rs. 30 a day. The Assistant Collector's camp costs perhaps Rs. 20 a day or less.

There was a rasai fund at Umarkot for the first year when I went there, but I stopped it. The butler interferes in the preparation of the bills by reducing the quantity and rates and eliminating certain articles. I would have the hand of the tapedar and the zamindar removed from rasai, if there was a way. A private man would find it very hard to get supplies when visiting particular villages and would have some difficulty even at the taluka headquarters for some things. When pleaders go out they are either provided with supplies by their own clients or they are the guests of the tapedars or mukhtiarkars' munshis or the Deputy Collector's munshis.

Water has been let into dhands (lakes) to fill them, so as to attract shikar. It was probably waste water. It was not a diversion from cultivation. The only experience I had was in Umarkot taluka, where rabi cultivation is prohibited, and the zamindars had no cause for complaint.

The roads are generally repaired by chheras; sand would have to be removed and earth put in to make the roads fit for motor cars. I refer to the Chhor road which is sandy in places. The sandy portions of the Chhor road are about 2 or 3 miles. I could not say what the expenses were, the zamindars had only to feed the haris. About 20 to 25 men per mile for about a month were employed. The sand had to be removed and earth to be put in, and the roads had to be watered.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I think the kilokhorani only applies to the Commissioner's camp. I have no clear idea about it. The zamindars acted very unwillingly as contractors under the rules of 1914. One zamindar actually refused. Since 1914 the tapedar is not allowed much interference in providing the supplies, he has merely to see that the things are actually supplied. Before 1914 they had to see that the things were collected. It was in their own hands and they collected more than was needed. Lapo continued since 1914, but in reduced proportion. I was three-and-a-half years mukhtiarkar in Umarkot. I stopped the rasai fund, but I can't say if the tapedars did not make rasai in some of the villages. I think the tapedars must have made rasai in some villages. A rasai fund is used only for cash payments and expenses of supplies at the headquarters of the taluka. Both rasai and lapo continue since the rules of 1914.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I think it would be better to appoint deputy or naib mukhtiarkars in place of the supervising tapedars. They would ensure better check. The check by the supervising tapedars is merely nominal. Every graduate who wants to rise to be mukhtiarkar must do the work of the tapedar, in order to learn the work, but it is not very much observed in practice according to the rules.

Social reforms among the class of Hindu tapedars might effect some reduction of lapo. It is necessary in addition to raise the pay of the tapedars. It would be worth trying the system of subsidised contractors. I am not sanguine of success. I think the contract system might succeed, if the subsidy were high enough. I don't think it would stop the exactions. The subsidy would have to be raised according to the demand.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. POHUMAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Pohumal Khushiram Mirchandani.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. 1,070 acres; land revenue from Rs. 1,700 to Rs. 2,000.

4. Residence. — 4. 47th deh, talukas Sinjhoro and Hyderabad.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai means to provide supplies at officers' camps free of payment.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 15 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Bobi, Talashah, Mungriari, 10th-Mile Dalore, Nauabad.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Engineer, the Collector, the Police Superintendent, the Deputy Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the Sub-divisional Officer and the Inspector.

10—28.—I do not make rasai. If by chance an official sends for a thing from me, I supply it free of payment, if I have got it. I however find my neighbouring zamindars greatly worrying themselves about rasai, and I have heard much of rasai from them which I can repeat.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? — 29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? — 30. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? — 31. 40 rupees.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? — 32. It is still made by the tapedars.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars or are payments made through contracting zamindars? — 33. Contractors are appointed nominally, but the bills are prepared by the tapedars.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? — 34. Zamindars hate to take up contracts for making rasai, as it does not befit their dignity. Moreover European officers do not hesitate to insult respectable zamindars on the reports of their servants. Such incidents are communicated to me by the zamindars. It would be better if independent contractors were appointed. Their bills should be paid by the treasury, and eventually deducted from the pay of the officers concerned.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? — 35. Yes.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? — 36. Rasai involves blackmailing of the poor, harassment of the haris and wastage.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? — 37. Yes. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15. Dhalis in the past were looked upon as tokens of hospitality, and were accepted by European officers once a year from select persons of known respectability. Now they are accepted as often as they are presented and from all sorts of persons. He, who calls on an officer with a dhali, is at once called in. The practice therefore has become more common than it was. It has gone to such a length that people ridicule and jeer at it. Zamindars make costly presents to officers, placing them in their dhalis. I saw a dhali intended for a European officer. It contained silverware. Sometimes bottles of liquor are passed on in dhalis by subordinates.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. Yes. It ought to be prohibited altogether.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. Lapo, originally a handful, now means the charge levied by force from zamindars by subordinate officials.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

40. There are two forms of unauthorized lapo: (1) Payment in cash, (2) Payment in kind. It is levied in the Public Works and Revenue Departments. There is no lapo in the Police Department. I have no experience of the Forest Department.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

41. Lapo is levied per survey number and in lump sum.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?

42. It is levied by the Sub-divisional Officer, the sub-overseer, the canal assistant, the abdar, the darogha, the muccadam, the police inspector, the police sub-inspector, the supervising tapedar, and the tapedar.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?

43. I pay lapo as well as contribute a sum to the rasai fund calculated at a certain rate per survey number. In some cases I have to make rasai. In some cases a deficit in the rasai fund is made good by cash contributions from chair-holders, holders of gun licenses, aspirants to the privileges of a chair and license and durbaris.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?

44. The tapedar and the abdar make money presents from the rasai fund and lapo respectively. The zamindar makes money payments to the peons of an officer visited by him.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?

45. I have not made such presents myself. They are made by the tapedars. Such payments are recorded in a bandi kept by the tapedar of the taluka headquarters.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

46. It is paid with a view to save oneself from oppression, and not for particular favours.

The muccadum on the Jamrao exacts a fixed annuity from the zamindar, cash from some haris, and milch goats, milk, butter, ghee, grain, etc., from others. If he is not given these things, he impounds cattle watering at authorized places on Government canals. There are roads alongside canals on the Jamrao system, and if a goat or other animal strays from a passing herd on to the embankment, the muccadum impounds the whole herd.

INSTANCES.

On the 6th of last month, the cattle of my haris were passing along the public bridge over the outlet of 47th deh. A she-goat strayed from the herd and drank water at the minor. The muccadum drove the whole herd to the pound. When he had driven the herd 2 miles, he released the cattle on payment of Rs. 2. He permits cattle-owners to allow their cattle to graze on grass growing on the fore-shores of canals, in return for which he takes ghee from them every month.

If a zamindar does not pay his annuity, the muccadum forces a plug of grass into the mouth of the outlet at night, with the result that the supply of water is cut off for a whole night.

The muccadums are always busy making rasai for officers. They seldom do their legitimate work. Their work is performed by the chher of zamindars.

The Jamrao Abdar.

Lapo is exacted by him at the rate of 8 annas to 1 rupee per cultivated number. He also knocks out from each hari cash, kids, grass, grain, etc., at the time of the harvest. If a hari fails to comply with his demands, he complains of him to the zamindar. When it is ordered to put up weirs at the mouths of the karias, the abdar levies large sums. Such a thing happened in August in the kharif season, 1914-15.

When water is to be supplied by turns in accordance with a system of rotation approved by the authorities, he reaps a rich harvest. If the abdar is not paid his lapo, he gets people fined frequently. He reports either that water has been allowed to run to waste or used unauthorizedly in a certain zamindar's deh, or that the bunds of the nalis (however strong they may be) are weak and likely to break down under the pressure of water. Then notices are issued. No matter what reasons you give and what evidence you produce, you are out of court. Fining is inevitably the result. On the Jamrao they follow no rules and regulations, except their own.

The abdar puts a zamindar to a heavy loss, especially in the latter case. If he gets his fee, he will report that the bunds have been repaired; if he is refused his fee, he will report that the bunds have not yet been repaired (however strong they may be), and will ask that he may be permitted to carry out the work departmentally. On receiving orders to carry out the work departmentally he will engage a number of men for half a day to get the work done, no matter how indifferently, and then report that so many men were employed for a few days or even a week. The zamindar will then be asked to pay the bill. Zamindars have paid hundreds of rupees in this way. I also paid Rs. 12 in this way in the kharif of 1913-14. If a zamindar still persists not to pay lapo, the abdar gets a brick removed from his outlet, with the result that he is fined Rs. 3 per acre on the whole cultivation by the Executive Engineer.

In the kharif of 1914-15, the Jamrao officials broke the outlet of deh No. 45. It was proved to have been so broken and the official concerned was dismissed. Notwithstanding that, in order to keep up the prestige, a fine was imposed on the zamindars at a light rate per acre on the whole cultivation.

The Jamrao Canal Assistant.

He is paid a lump sum by each zamindar per year, which is in proportion to his means. If he is not paid his lapo, he supports the false reports made by the abdars. If on account of deficiency of water the outlet is allowed to be enlarged, the zamindar is asked to pay him a fee. Zamindars make such payments to him, because they feel that his reports are minded by the officers.

The Jamrao Darogha.

He is paid in lump sum per year to prevent him from making any mischief with the regulators.

The Jamrao Signaller.

Wherever there are signallers in charge of regulators, they are paid annuities to prevent them from making mischief.

The Jamrao Sub-Overseer.

Measurements of water are taken in the cultivation season. On the Jamrao one cannot get more water than one is entitled to. If the sub-overseer is not paid his annuities, he makes out by measurements that the zamindar has more water than he has a right to. He reports accordingly and reduces the section of the outlet. This levy has been made for the last three years. When in the year 1915-16 profiles were put up, the sub-overseers had a good time. They first put up profiles of a depth larger than the sanctioned depth. The result was that there was deficiency of water for the zamindars. On being paid heavy sums, the sub-overseers reduced the profiles to the sanctioned depth. The sub-overseer also exacts a large sum of money when an outlet is put up or enlarged.

The Jamrao Mason.

He demands a fee when putting up an outlet or a profile or reducing or enlarging the same. In case of refusal he contravenes the orders, does not care for his superiors, and makes mischief.

Instances.

In deh No. 46 on Dalor minor in the kharif of 1915-16, profiles were constructed of mud instead of chunum masonry, with the result that the whole masonry was washed off by water. The P. W. D. imposed a fine of Rs. 3 per acre on the zamindars on their entire cultivation. An appeal was made and a sample of the mud (which was said to be chunum) was forwarded to the Collector of Nawabshah. An appeal was made to the Commissioner also, but to no purpose. Since the date of appeal I have had enemies and incurred the displeasure of the Executive Engineer. When I visited the Executive Engineer there was some talk between us as if I had committed a great offence in appealing against the order of the Executive Engineer and of the Collector, and I was advised not to make any appeals in the future.

(2) In the last kharif season, orders were issued to reduce the outlet of deh 47th. The original dimensions of the outlet were $\cdot 9 \times 1 \cdot 0$. They were to be reduced to $0 \cdot 61 \times 1 \cdot 0$. The mason however reduced the dimensions to $9'' \times 9''$. This he did in the presence of my agent and that of another zamindar.

(3) In the present rabi season of 1917-18 orders were issued to raise the sill of the profile of deh No. 47 by 3 inches. The mason on the 9th of January 1918 raised it by 6 inches instead of 3 inches. The reason was that he was not given the sum demanded by him. Application was made to the Executive Engineer, informing him of the disobedience of orders. A reply came after 2½ months, saying that it was a matter in which the Executive Engineer was not concerned, and warning that no such frivolous applications should be made in future. Meantime the cultivation season had come to an end.

The Sub-divisional Officer.

Some of the big zamindars give the Sub-divisional Officer an entertainment fee, and others present him with a horse, camel or grain. He can, if he chooses to, ruin a zamindar owing to his unlimited powers. He is moreover the right-hand man of the Executive Engineer and his prime minister. He can even have the orders of the Executive Engineer changed. He is the ma bap of his subordinates and always connives at their mistakes.

Instances.

(1) In the last kharif season on 28th July 1917, orders were issued to narrow the outlet of deh No. 47. The original dimensions were $\cdot 9 \times 1 \cdot 0$. These were to be reduced to $0 \cdot 61 \times 1 \cdot 0$. The mistri however reduced the dimensions to $9'' \times 9''$. A written complaint was made of deficiency of water on 31st July 1917. I made another application on 2nd September 1917, after personally inspecting the site. I also saw the Executive Engineer at Mirpurkhas on 17th September 1917, having known that the applications were not disposed of. The Executive Engineer sent a telegram to the Sub-divisional Officer, asking him to keep the outlet of deh No. 47 at the original section. The Sub-divisional Officer instead of carrying out the orders reported that more water was still going through the outlet than the zamindar was entitled to. The Executive Engineer cancelled his order. Then private pressure was brought to bear on the Sub-divisional Officer. He saw the Executive Engineer and got him to re-issue the cancelled order on 3rd October 1917. The outlet was then kept at its original section.

(2) On 11th May 1915, the outlet of deh No. 48 was washed off owing to a breach. It was hoped that it would be rebuilt within a week. Owing however to slackness on the part of the officials it was not rebuilt until after a month In the meanwhile no water was allowed, though a kacha outlet could have been put up by the Sub-divisional Officer. The Sub-divisional Officer was told that an application would be made to the Executive Engineer, and actually an application was drafted and shown to him. He did not mind it. The application however was not sent. For about 3 weeks together chher was provided without payment of wages. Even camels were provided to bring chunum. Then alone the outlet was rebuilt.

The Hyderabad Canals District.

The muccadum levies 4 annas per water wheel put up on Government land; and a toya of grain at the time of harvest. The daroghà levies from 8 annas to rupees 2 per water wheel.

Lapo in the Revenue Department.

The tapedar.—His lapo is from 8 annas to Rs. 1-8-0 per survey number, in addition to a rasai fund charge of 8 annas per survey number. Rs. 5 per survey number is exacted from small khatedars. When new lands are taken up the tapedar is paid Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 for filling in kacha parwanas, failing which he makes false and misleading statements in the kacha parwanas, with the result that the land is refused If the tapedar is not paid his lapo, the mukhtiarkar occasionally sends for the zamindar who has refused to pay it and tells him to pay it. I know of a case in which a zamindar increased the tapedar's lapo from 8 annas to 12 annas at the request of the mukhtiarkar. My tapedar once asked me to increase the lapo of 8 annas per survey number in the presence of the head munshi in open court, and at his instance, apart from lapo, the tapedar gets an entertainment fee from the zamindars. A zamindar complained to a mukhtiarkar of a tapedar asking Rs. 5 instead of Rs. 2 per survey number as his lapo. The mukhtiarkar replied that the increased lapo should be paid to enable the tapedar to meet the increased cost of rasai. This shut the mouths of other zamindars who had similar complaints to make.

The Supervising tapedar.—Lapo to the supervising tapedar is a new custom of six years' growth. It is paid at the rate of 8 annas per survey number. Apart from this, cash payments are also made by zamindars in lieu of entertainment. As I have not paid lapo to the supervising tapedar, he, in his turn, has not missed any opportunity to put me to a loss.

(1) Year before last, i.e., at the end of kharif of 1916-17, he made me incur expenses of boundary marks, although the boundary marks were in order; and I had not been served with a notice.

(2) On 26th April 1913, I applied to the mukhtiarkar of Sinjhoro for three trees, which I required for the purpose of constructing a building. The matter was not disposed of until 6 months ago, i.e., until after 5 years.

(3) On 10th March 1916, I applied for a new village site for the benefit of cultivation, so as to get my haris in one place. The application has not yet been disposed of, in spite of orders to the effect that applications which are made for the benefit of cultivation should be disposed of promptly.

(4) On 29th November 1916, I applied to the Deputy Collector that the site of the village in block No. 39 might be given me for cultivation, as the village had been nearly depopulated. Thereupon the supervising tapedar sent for my haris, threatened them and got an application from them, objecting to the conversion of the village site into cultivated land. The reply was that the land could not be given out until the village was entirely depopulated.

Police Department.

The zamindars pay fixed annuities to the Police inspectors and sub-inspectors to prevent them harassing their men.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I pay about Rs. 100 each year on account of lapo and annuities. Other zamindars of my standing have to pay Rs. 500 each year.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. Lapo and rasai have on the contrary increased.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. (1) Introduction of free and compulsory education.

(2) Curtailment of tours and restriction of camps to large villages.

(3) Revision of the pay of all Indian subordinate officials, and of tapedars, peons, munshis and clerks in particular.

(4) Establishment of closer relations between European officers and Indians, and greater wakefulness on the part of the former in the matter of prevention of lapo.

(5) Separation of revenue and judicial functions.

(6) Curtailment of the powers of tapedars. Substitution of stones for earthen mounds and ridges for the purpose of boundary marks.

(7) Non-interference of Government in the matter of trees standing on private karias.

(8) Abolition of the appointments of abdars and canal assistants.

(9) Liberal supply of water on the Jamrao and no frequent interference with the sections of outlets.

(10) Remittance of assessment by money order free of commission.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour employed by force and without remuneration.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. On the Jamrao.—They are called upon to clear canals, to repair inspection paths, to put in order and clear the foreshores of the minors, to prepare roads, to repair roads, to close breaches, to help the private servants of the officers in their work; as for instance to fetch water and to bring firewood from the jungles. Chher is also employed in connection with masonry work. At the time of renewing the outlet of deh 48, chher was employed without wages for a month. This was in the kharif season of 1915-16.

In the Revenue Department.—To prepare and repair roads, to construct landhis and to put in order camping grounds, to pitch tents, etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. No. The zamindars only feed them and that too, if the place of work is very far from their homes. If they work near their homes, they have their own food.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. From 20 to 100.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. For bringing provisions, etc., 5 to 25; for preparing camping grounds and pitching tents, 20 to 40; for bringing firewood and stalks, 5 to 30.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. The zamindars only feed them; but the officers give them nothing. They sometimes are fed at the expense of Government when they are employed on closing breaches, and breaches are generally far off from the chheras' villages.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

60—61. I have no idea of the requirements of shikar.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. From 50 to 500.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. To some extent.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. From 50 to 500.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get nothing.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Casual paid labour is available at a daily wage of annas 8 to annas 10.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes.

NOTE.—When the mouth of the Jamrao was cleared, zamindars were called upon to provide chher for the purpose. They drafted their haris as well as ordinary labourers whom they paid heavy wages. The men were employed in groups on the piece-work system. They earned thereby 8 annas a day. The zamindars paid them at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 a day and thus suffered a great loss. The police also under instructions from revenue officials forced men to go. The result was that not a single male could be seen within two miles round. Females were left behind with none to protect them. There were several outrages on them which were suppressed owing to shame and modesty. A Khan Sahib informed me of all this and asked me to publish it in newspapers. There is a road, 55 miles long, from Mirpur to Khadro, alongside the bank of the Jamrao. In last Christmas this road was repaired for the Commissioner's motor car to pass along it. The chheras were quite unwilling to work, as they were all down with fever. They got no wages for their labour. On the 8th of April breaches occurred on the Dalor. They were closed without payment. A breach occurred on the Jamwah in the last abkalani season. Zamindari chher was called inf or the purpose. The chheras got food only. They were unwilling to work, as the season was malarial. This interfered with cultivation and caused a great loss to the zamindars, as the crops were damaged by birds. The chheras worked for about 15 days. Chher was sent for from Sinjoro, Shahdadpur, and even from Nawabshah. Railway fare, both ways, was paid by the zamindars. About 400 chheras were called.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. POHUMAL KHUSHIRAM.

To the Chairman—

My expense of Rs. 40 a year is for making rasai for the subordinates.

I am a Lohana Khatri. I have had zamindari for 15 years. The zamindari has been in our hands for 40 years. We purchased it at an auction of fallow forfeited lands. My father was a mukhtiarkar. My zamindari is in Sanghar. I live here in Hyderabad, Sind, and also on my fields. I remain 5 months on my fields and the rest of the time at Hyderabad, Sind; I saw a silver tea set in a dhali, 8 or 9 months ago. I saw it prepared in Hyderabad, the man was going to take it by railway. The man was my relative. He was going to take it to the Executive Engineer, Jamrao Canal. My information is that the Engineer accepted it. I decline to give the name of my relative through fear, lest he might get into trouble. I decline to give the name of the Engineer, for I might get into trouble.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

If rasai is stopped, then lapo to a great extent would stop. Rasai and lapo are independent of one another. Rasai is the foundation of lapo.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I decline to say in which district the Engineer was working, as I might suffer loss. I have no zamindari in the southern district, only in the northern district. My profile was reduced in the northern district. Enquiries were made, before it was reduced, by the Sub-divisional Officer and the Executive Engineer personally. My land is in the upper portion of the canal, not in the tail. By reducing the profile there would be some deficiency of water and more would go down to others. I have no grudge on account of the reduction of my profile.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF SAYED ABDUL HAKIMSHAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Sayed Abdulhakimshah, son of Sayed Allahbuxshah.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindar.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue.	3. Land revenue Rs. 3,000.
4. Residence.	4. Resident of village Vasi Malukshah, taluka Guni, district Hyderabad.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate.	5. District local board member, Hyderabad.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. The word rasai means to supply articles free of payment at camps.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. 30 years'.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Mulla Katiar, Vasi Malukshah.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Collector, the Commissioner, the District Superintendent of Police, the Divisional Forest Officer, the Conservator, the Sanitary Commissioner.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. All provisions, grass, firewood, etc.
11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. I mostly buy them. I get some from my own house.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. I do not get them from my haris. I purchase them. The big zamindars, who are asked to help, contribute their quotas.
13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates?	13. I pay for them at the market rates.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Every article has a market value everywhere.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. I get firewood from the jungles. It costs me nothing. But I feed those who bring it to camp. This works out at 2 annas per load.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 6.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. The daily cost for each servant is from 8 to 10 annas.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. Yes.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. The average daily cost is Rs. 1-8-0 per munshi.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?	21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

22. The cost per camp is Rs. 15 to Rs. 20.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. I receive no payment from the officers, their clerks, their private servants and official staff. But the European officers pay at the reduced prices, the money being taken back by the butler.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on us, zamindars.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. It does not cost me anything, as there are pucca houses at the camping places at which I make rasai.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

28. The cost depends upon the distance travelled. The charge per mile is 2 annas in the case of a camel and horse, and 4 annas in that of a cart.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. The annual cost is for the supervising tapedar and the tapedar with his kotar, Rs. 80, 6 camps a year; the mukhtiarkar and his establishment, Rs. 100, 6 camps a year; the Assistant Collector and his establishment, Rs. 120, 2 camps a year; the Collector, Rs. 80, 1 camp a year; the District Superintendent of Police and other police, Rs. 50, 1 camp a year; the Forest Department, Rs. 200, 2 camps a year (both zamindars and our haris contributing); the Commissioner, Rs. 400, cost for 1 camp, which occurs every two or three years; money presents to peons of mukhtiarkars, Rs. 7; money presents to the butler and peons of the Assistant Collector, Rs. 13; money presents to peons and butler of the Collector, Rs. 13; money presents to peons of Engineer, Rs. 4; money presents to the tapedar's kotar, Rs. 4.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. I make rasai myself. The cost to me per year is Rs. 600.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I make rasai at my own expense, consequently the burden of rasai has been imposed on me, and not on the tapedar. The tapedar and the mukhtiarkar are present at the camps.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. At their instance my agent receives payment for supplies provided for the European officers. The bill is prepared by the tapedar in consultation with the butler. The money is taken back by the butler.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I do not approve of rasai being entrusted to zamindars or tapedars. Nor is there any use of appointing a contractor. Everything can be had in large towns and should be taken out on tour. This is quite possible. If, however, it is not possible, an independent contractor should be appointed, who should be allowed an increase in the market rates.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Zamindars should not be asked to make rasai. Tours should be curtailed; camp establishments should be curtailed. Camps should be confined to large towns. Should it be necessary to camp in the jungles, supplies should previously be obtained in large towns, and taken out. Controlling officers should keep a strict eye on things and make secret and open inquiries. The mukhtiarkar and the head munshi should be held responsible for seeing that no rasai is made.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I present dhalis of fruit and vegetables to high officers as tokens of hospitality. It costs me from 8 to 10 rupees.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. The practice should be prohibited.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. I understand by lapo an exaction.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are various forms of lapo. It is levied in all departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied in lump sum or at a certain rate per survey number or a certain percentage on the numbers.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by the supervising tapedar and darogha in lump sum, or at a certain rate per number or per assessment. It is levied in the police and the other departments in lump sum.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. The subordinate officials make money presents to the touring establishments from their lapo. I pay lapo as well as make such presents.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

44—45. I make money presents to the servants of touring officers to prevent them from prejudicing their masters against me.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Lapo is paid with a view to save one's respect and also to save oneself from undue harm.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Lapo is exacted by tapedars, supervising tapedars, daroghas, police thanedars and officials of the Forest Department.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. From Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No. It cannot be reduced, because the mukhtiarkar and the head munshi support the lapo-takers.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. The following are my suggestions for the suppression of lapo:—

(1) Lapo will not stop, unless revenue and judicial functions are separated.

(2) The mukhtiarkar and the head munshi should be held responsible for the prevention of lapo.

(3) Heads of offices should take severe notice of cases of lapo. They should also make secret and open inquiries.

(4) There should be a committee of respectable zamindars appointed to look into matters in which subordinate officials get lapo by causing indirect losses. The committee should inquire into cases of lapo and submit reports, and lapo-takers should be punished on its reports. Unless this is done, lapo will continue.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means to work without wages as impressed labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. The chheras are haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To prepare roads and camping grounds, to bring supplies to camp, to pitch and strike tents, to load and unload kit, to fetch water, to carry post and to help at shikar.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. No.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. For the mukhtiarkar, 10; for the Assistant Collector, 20; for the Collector, 40; for the Superintendent of Police, 20; for the Executive Engineer, 20; for the Forest Department officer, 15; for the Commissioner, 200 chheras are required.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. The chheras remain in attendance daily till the camp breaks up.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing but food from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. For bird-shooting 10 chheras, for pig-shooting 50 to 100 chheras, are required.

61. Do they come willingly or not, and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They do not come willingly. They get nothing but food from the zamindars. Shikaris alone get something from the officers. This year the Collector of Hyderabad paid 4 annas to each man.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. Every zamindar repairs the roads within his limits, when an officer is about to camp.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. They are of benefit also to the public after the officer has passed along the roads.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. In the case of breaches on canals 40 to 50, and in the case of breaches of river embankments 500 to 1,000, chheras are required.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get food only from Government.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. The absence of chheras from their fields interferes with cultivation.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available to a large extent in my neighbourhood.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Chher ought to be abolished, and ordinary labour should be engaged.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF SAYED ABDUL HAKIMSHAH.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

In 1913, the tapedar would not take the usual 6 annas, but wanted rupee 1 ; in consequence the tapedar informed me that only 3 of my numbers would be fallow forfeited, if not cultivated; whereas there were 23 such numbers. Consequently 20 of my numbers were fallow forfeited and I had to pay Rs. 300 to get my numbers back. My appeal to the Collector was dismissed. I have the tapedar's notice to me that there were only 3 numbers likely to be fallow forfeited.

Another instance was that my servant was prosecuted for cutting a branch of a tree, because I refused to pay lapo, relying upon the orders of 1914. The case was transferred from the mukhtiarkar to the sub-divisional magistrate who acquitted my man. It has been recorded in that judgment that it was a false case and was made on account of lapo. It was in the year 1915 or 1916.

The third instance was when there was rain water in my fields in the Mirpur Bathoro taluka. In the month of May I got a notice for waste of water. I was fined for it and my appeal was dismissed. The rain fell about October or November. I have the notice with me.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I am a member of the taluka local board. The local fund money is spent on the roads, but the special repairs are required when the officers come. I had to pay also lapo in spite of supplying provisions.

The Assistant Collector, Mr. Bayley, made an enquiry into rasai, and it came out that the mukhtiarkar took away the supplies which were not used by the Commissioner, as the Commissioner had encamped on his steamer. This was when Mr. Lucas was the Commissioner-in-Sind.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. NABIBUXSHAH.

1. Name. — 1. Nabibuxshah walad Alibuxshah, zamindar, Sayed.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindari.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. Zamindari area about 2,500 acres. Land revenue about 5 or 6 thousand rupees.

4. Residence. — 4. My own village, taluka Badin.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. — 5. Local board member, and elected vice-president, taluka local board, Badin.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai means zamindars' indebtedness caused by the payment of unlawful impositions.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 25 or 26 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Tamarhun, Nindoshahir, and special camping grounds.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. All officers including the Commissioner.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Eggs, fowls, fish, mutton, milk, firewood, grass, etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. I get them from wherever they can be had.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. Every zamindar is to supply a certain quantity of supplies fixed by the mukhtiarkar or other officials of the taluka. If he fails in this, proceedings under section 110, C. P. C., and adverse reports calculated to cause him loss are the result; his visits to the officers are stopped, he is made to suffer several other losses and undergo heavy expenses and none hears him. The position of a zamindar who refuses to make rasai is similar to that of a man who is bitten by a dog and gets shoe-strokes into the bargain.

13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? — 13. I pay at the prevalent rates.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. I purchase firewood as well as get my servants to collect it.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. It is not a fixed charge. Whatever is required is supplied.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. It is not a fixed charge.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. It is not a fixed charge. It varies according to requirements.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? — 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp? — 22. It is not a fixed charge.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? — 23. The officers pay what they are charged in the bills. Others pay nothing, because of the desire of the taluka officials to please them, with a view to their own benefit and because of their relationships with them.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? — 24. The loss falls on the zamindars, and not on the haris.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. No.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

28. I pay the hire but receive no payment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. The daily cost of rasai in the case of mukhtiarkars and Public Works Department supervisors varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. In the case of inspectors and others the amount is not fixed. No payment is made.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. Before the year 1912, it cost me Rs. 400 or 500. Since then I have spent nothing. In the year 1913, we, zamindars, with a view to suppress the evil of rasai, made a firm resolve on oath not to make rasai and published a letter to that effect in the "Sind Gazette" for the information of the officers (which I submit herewith), and if we had carried out our resolve up to this time, Government would not have found it necessary to appoint a committee at such a time as the present. But, alas! owing to the oppression of the subordinate officials who found their free supplies stopped, we could not make further progress with our work. The oppression has continued till now, and they exact from us all the supplies except money. Consequently, the expenditure is small and varies from year to year.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. It is actually made by the tapedars, the contracting zamindar being the nominal person.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. No payment is received.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. The appointment of independent contractors might result in some improvement; but it is unlikely that this system will prove successful. Rasai is made in order to please the establishments of superior officers. The officers are like hawks in their hands. The taluka officials, who make rasai with a view to their own ends and to secure connivance at their irregularities, will certainly help the contractors. Possibly the zamindars might have to pay more in cash than they did before.

I quote below a recent instance, showing how rasai is the means of making the reputation of taluka officials:—

The doctor of Badin cut without permission a few live shed-giving babul trees on a local fund road at the village of Rahimdino Sumro near the town of Badin. I reported the matter to the mukhtiarkar on 21st March 1918, and forwarded a copy of the report to the president, taluka local board, and to the president, district local board. After a long time the mukhtiarkar made a reply which I submit herewith. I then wrote to the president, taluka local board, asking that as he was encamped at Badin, he might visit the spot and hold a local inquiry into the case and secure the timber which was Government property. But the president was so much under the magic influence of rasai-takers that he took no steps. I am still ready to prove the matter. How then can we expect that the appointment of independent contractors will improve matters? The officials are wholly in the hands of rasai-takers, and do whatever the latter want them to do.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. My objections are:—

(1) They should take nothing from us, as we are not merchants.

(2) They can get anything on payment wherever they may be.

My recommendations are:—

(1) A committee, consisting of zamindars, should be appointed to each taluka to look over rasai matters. The members to be elected by the zamindars themselves.

(2) The touring officers should take out small establishment with them. They should not, as at present, sit with their doors closed, but should come in contact with zamindars and know what they have to say.

(3) The parwanas of chairs and arms should be given by them on their personal inquiry, and not on the recommendations of the taluka officials, bearing in mind the social status, respectability and fitness of each applicant.

(4) Early orders should be passed on the reports made by the Revenue and Public Works Department officials against zamindars, after hearing the latter.

(5) Unoccupied, unassessed or fallow numbers lying interspersed among zamindars' occupied survey numbers should be given to them on permanent tenure.

(6) The special circular No. 76 should be modified or permanent settlement should be introduced.

(7) The restriction of the P. W. D. officials on zamindari karias should be removed. The zamindars use as much water as they want. They have no use for more water.

(8) The revenue and judicial functions in talukas should be separated.

(9) Free and compulsory education should be introduced so far as local fund schools are concerned.

(10) No action should be taken against zamindars under section 110, C. P. C.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. No.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means what is exacted from zamindars under compulsion, threats or force.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. Unauthorised lapo is levied in all departments. It is levied by all subordinate officials including the tapedar and kotar.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. The subordinates in the head offices levy it in lump sum and for particular favours. The taluka officials levy it as under:—

(1) The supervising tapedar levies Rs. 2 per Rs. 100 of assessment and takavi, and 4 annas per boundary mark, and a lump sum on other matters.

(2) The tapedar levies a rupee or more per number, along with the assessment; a rupee per each number, regarding which information from the records is wanted; a rupee per number on the transfer of khata and on the entry of a name in the record of rights; and a rupee per acre for finding out, at the time of katcheries, the average assessment paid by a zamindar.

(3) The settlement munshi levies rupee one per number on khatebadal and the taking of a kabuliat, and a lump sum on other matters.

(4) The second munshi and the treasurer levy 2% on takavi and 5% on local fund contracts, etc., etc.

(5) The head munshi levies from big zamindars an annuity varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50.

(6) The personal munshi of a magistrate levies Rs. 2 on taking bail from the accused, and a lapo equal to the copying fee when copies are given.

(7) The sub-registrar levies 2% when registering documents.

(8) The postmaster levies, on registered letters, money-orders, ordinary and value-payable parcels and telegrams, a lapo equal to the postal charge.

(9) The doctor levies as his lapo as much as his fee.

(10) The supervisor levies a lump sum from big zamindars; ghee, rice from small zamindars and 5% from small contractors.

(11) Sub-overseer's exactions are similar, though smaller.

(12) The darogha charges a rupee per foot for opening the mouth of a karia.

(13) The mukhtiarkar levies from big zamindars an annuity varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200, in addition to horses and camels, and from small zamindars grain for horses and ghee. But some do not accept these things.

Couplet.—"Not every woman is a woman and not every man is a man. God did not make all the five fingers of uniform size."

(14) The charge of a naik, pattewala, kotar and muccadum vary from Re. 1 to Rs. 10.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. This has been answered under No. 41. The thanedars also take grain for their horses from zamindars, but if they want something more, they get it by means of section 110, C. P. C.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai. Lapo is not utilised to cover the cost of rasai. It is levied by the tapedars to make payments to the subordinates of head offices, with a view to their conniving at mistakes in the records during the tour.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I have to pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. The butler from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20. The naik and peons from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10; private servants, Re. 1 each. The private servants are paid with a view to prevent them from displeasing their masters who do not mix with the people. The peons are paid so that they may offer chairs to zamindars when they come as witnesses and on other occasions and announce visitors to their masters without delay. The munshis are paid to save one's respect. If the munshis are displeased, their sahib is already displeased, and no matter how respectable a man may be, his respect is gone.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Lapo is paid, not for particular favours, but to save oneself from harm.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. This has been answered under No. 41.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I have not paid it since the year 1913.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. No action under form 8 should be taken against agriculturists who have built themselves kacha houses on unassessed and unoccupied land, with a view to being near to their fields. For the rest, see reply to 41.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. I consider it as impressed labour.

53. Who are the Chheras'?

53. They are zamindars' haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To prepare camping grounds, to put in order local fund and P. W. D. roads, gardens and water wheels, to close breaches of canal banks and embankments and to attend on officers and help them at shikar. They are also asked to do the work of paid local fund malhis who do the private work of the mukhtiarkar, the head munshi and the second munshi.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. No.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. According to requirements.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. Do.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing. Only the zamindars feed them.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. The number varies from 5 to 100 or more.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come unwillingly. Some of the officers pay them something and the zamindars feed them.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. According to requirements.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Yes.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number varies from 50 to 300.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. The zamindars only feed them.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available to some extent.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. It ought to be modified.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. NABIBUXSHAH.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I have suffered a good deal of loss for refusing to pay lapo since 1913. I have even suffered at the hands of the Assistant Collectors, because they have been instigated by their subordinates.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. P. T. KIRKPATRIK RECALLED.

To the Chairman—

I have just been transferred from Sukkur to Hyderabad. I remember the incident in which the police were alleged to have forced the banias of Garhi Yasin taluka to make rasai. An inquiry was first made into the matter by Mr. Hiranand, inspector. The zamindar, Madhavdas, was not satisfied that the inquiry was impartial, so I subsequently made a second inquiry myself. I learnt that the police party, consisting of a sub-inspector, a sowar, a foot constable and a pagi, had gone to the village of Varayasing and stayed there for three days. On the second day there was a fight between the constable Jan Mahomed and one of the banias. The banias complained to the sub-inspector, and the sub-inspector, presumably to keep up the abru of the police, spoke roughly to them and turned them out of his otak. But he beat the constable. The banias afterwards left the village, so did the police. At the end of the month the sepoy was discharged from the service. The fight occurred on the second day. Nothing occurred on the third day, and on the 4th day, many of the banias shut up their shops and left. They sent a telegram to me, complaining of police oppression, and I then ordered the enquiry with the result stated. The main point of their complaint was that they were forced to leave their shops, because they were forced to make rasai. There were three shops and each produced the list of articles taken by the sub-inspector. The account was in the name of the sub-inspector. At the time of the enquiry all said that nothing was supplied beyond what was shewn in these lists, and that they had been fully paid for. Madhavdas told me that he did not know whether any action was taken by the police, but when he heard that the policemen were dismissed, he said he was satisfied.

Sub-inspector Chandumal was under me in 1913-14. I certainly did not knock Chandumal down. It is not my habit to knock down policemen. Chandumal has the reputation of being very honest. He certainly takes no bribes. But his honesty rests on the fact that he always paid a fixed fee of annas 4 for each meal whenever supplies are given to him, no matter how rich the supplies. He is against making rasai in any form. He was sub-inspector of Nawabshah so he had to make no rasai, because Nawabshah is a headquarter town. I think he is too guileless to make a good police officer. He believes everything that is told him. I had to reduce him once for unnecessary travelling, with a view to making travelling allowance. I went to Nawabshah in December 1912. I was there as District Superintendent of Police till the end of August 1914, and stayed there on special duty till January 1915. Chandumal went on leave in the summer of 1914.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The Garhi Yasin inquiry was in writing and is a matter of record. The banias told me that the origin of the fight between the police constable and the bania was that the constable wanted tamarind for the sub-inspector and the bania did not produce a good kind of tamarind. The constable told him to get it for him from another village. The bania refused and after that they abused each other and came to blows. The blows were mutual, the fight was seen by Wadero Khairshah. Mr. Murlidhar made no reference on the matter. Mr. Madhavdas complained that the inspector was shielding the police and preventing the people from giving evidence, so I subsequently came and made the inquiry, and allowed Madhavdas to lead all the evidence. The sub-inspector made an allegation against Madhavdas that he was trying to make up a case of rasai, as he was a friend of Mr. Bhurgri. This is what Mr. Madhavdas stated in his petition. Mr. Chandumal is a vegetarian.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

Mr. Holman was District Superintendent of Police of Hyderabad in 1910.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HASOMAL VILAITRAI.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Hasomal Vilaitrai.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar, taluka Tando Bago.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. Rs. 6,000 land revenue.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Taluka local board member.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai means to meet the camp requirements of officers.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 7 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Dadah and Kamaroh.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Executive Engineer and the Deputy Collector camp at Dadah. The mukhtiarkar and the sub-divisional officer camp at Kamaroh.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Milk, butter, eggs, fowls, kids, vegetables, spices, grass, firewood, etc., etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. I keep grass, the produce of my fields, in stock. As regards milk and butter, I get these, sometimes from my own house, and sometimes from my haris. I get firewood from the jungles, and send it to camp in my own carts. All other articles I get on payment.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. I get nothing from other zamindars.

13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? — 13. I pay for the articles purchased by me at the ordinary rates, i.e., the rates prevalent at the time.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. They have market values, but slightly lower than in towns.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. I get firewood from the jungles, and send it to camp in my carts. I get my paid men to bring it from the jungles.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. The average daily cost in the case of high officers, such as the Collector, the Engineer and others, is about Rs. 2-8-0.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. About 8 annas.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. About 12 annas.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? — 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp? — 22. At Kamaroh, where I live, no big officer camps. The mukhtiarkar alone camps there. As for the total expenses incurred in connection with the camping place at Dadah, Sayed Mahomed Alimshah can give the figure, as he makes rasai there.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? — 23. I receive no payment for the rasai I make.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The loss falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment ?

26. They generally live in pucca houses. In case a temporary landhi is to be erected, I receive no payment for it.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

28. I have my own animals and carts. I receive no payment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. It costs me about Rs. 40 per camp. I receive no payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. About Rs. 250.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?

32. I make rasai myself at Kamaroh, while at Dadah, Sayed Mahomed Alimshah makes it.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars, or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?

33. Sayed Mahomed Alimshah prepares and presents bills for camps at Dadah. I too make rasai there, but I get nothing.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and the zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

35. Yes.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

36. The only objection that I have is that the present system should be discontinued. Independent contractors should be appointed for making rasai. They should be paid by Government for their labour. Every officer should keep a strict eye on his establishment and see that they pay for what they get. Those who do not pay fully should be punished to set an example to others.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?

37. Yes. It costs me about Rs. 25 annually.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. As the zamindar presents a dhali to an officer of his own free-will and as a token of courtesy, the practice should not be prohibited. Dhalis have no connection with rasai.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. Lapo means to give a handful of corn from the batai. Now it means to give a handful, not of corn, but of money.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

40. Unauthorized lapo is levied in all departments except the Police. There are two forms of unauthorized lapo. One is levied on cultivation and the other at the time of making recommendations for grants of land in the course of correspondence and at katcheries.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

41. Unauthorised lapo is generally paid in the form of annuities.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedar, the darogha, the abdar and the canal assistant. It is levied for no particular purpose. It is a sort of blackmail which if it is not paid leads to subordinate officials creating trouble for the zamindar.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Unauthorized lapo is levied, not for the purpose of making rasai for touring officers, but to fill the pockets of the tapedars, the daroghas, and the abdars themselves. I have to pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I have to pay lapo as well as make such presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. These presents are made as annuities with a view to no particular favour. The men come and sit at the door. One is therefore forced to pay them.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. No particular favour is shown on account of unauthorized lapo.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Unauthorized lapo is generally exacted by the tapedars, daroghas, abdars, kotars, beldars and supervising tapedars. I pay about Rs. 100.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. Answered above.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No. It continues as before.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Lapo will stop, if the following measures are adopted:—

(1) The powers of the tapedars and the daroghas should be curtailed.

(2) Reports regarding the pending matters of zamindars, large or small, should be called for not from the tapedars, but from zamindars of standing.

(3) The salaries of the tapedars and the daroghas should be increased.

(4) Proper inquiry should be made into the complaints of zamindars, whether large or small.

(5) The mukhtiarkar should personally inquire from the zamindars, if they are harassed by the tapedars for not paying lapo to them and, if he finds that they are, punish the wrong-doer severely so as to set an example to others.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means men provided for the performance of Government work.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. The chheras are zamindars' haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To repair roads, to clear the banks of canals, to close breaches, to pitch and strike tents, to fetch water and to help at shikar.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Yes.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. The chheras are paid, though not fully, by the officers in some cases. The zamindars only feed them.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. About 20 chheras are required at the camp of each officer. They work during the time of the camp and also for 6 or 7 days in advance of it. If all are counted in, then the number will be 50—60 from beginning to end.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. About a dozen are required daily to bring supplies to camp, and about 20 more are required to pitch and strike camps.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing from the officers. They get food only from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. From 20 to 100.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They do not come willingly. They do not get anything for their labour from the officers. The zamindars only feed them.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. The number depends upon the amount of work to be done.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Not to the extent to which they are of benefit to the officers.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. They get nothing for such labour from the officers. But the zamindars feed them.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. From 10 to 100 are required in case of floods.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They sometimes get something from the officers. They get nothing generally.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available to any extent.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. It could be procured on payment of full wages.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. I consider that chher should not be taken from zamindars, except in emergencies. It should not be taken for work at camps. It should be demanded in case of breaches only. For the repair of roads, free labour should be engaged and paid at the ordinary rates.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF KHAN SAHIB SAYED HASSANALI SHAH.

Preliminary.

1.	Name.	1. Khan Sahib Sayed Hassanali Shah, resident of Matiari.
2.	Occupation.	2. Zamindari.
3.	Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue.	3. I pay an annual assessment of about 15 or 20 thousand rupees.
4.	Residence.	4. Matiari.
5.	Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. I am second-class magistrate of Matiari municipality, chairman and member of the district local board.

Rasai.

6.	What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. It means an unlawful gratification.
7.	How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. About 20 or 25 years'.
8.	What are the camping ground for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Matiari, Jiandalkote, Ghotana, taluka Hala.
9.	What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. Almost all touring officers.
10.	What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. Flour, rice, butter, ghee, chickens, eggs, kids, milk, stalks, firewood, etc.
11.	Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. I get from my own house whatever I can get from there; the rest I get from banias.
12.	Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. I get on payment whatever I cannot get from my own house. I do not get them from my haris. Every zamindar makes his own arrangements.
13.	Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates?	13. I pay for them, excepting firewood and grass which I have in my zamindari. The following are the rates:—chickens from 4 to 10 annas each, eggs 9 annas a dozen and so on.
14.	Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. They certainly have market values; but as they are available in my zamindari, they are given.
15.	Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. I get firewood from my zamindari. It costs me at each camp 5 to 10 rupees to bring it to camp.
16.	What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. Four or five rupees is the daily cost.
17.	Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. Yes.
18.	What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. Six or seven rupees is the daily cost.
19.	Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. Yes.
20.	What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. Six or seven rupees daily.
21.	Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?	21. Yes.
22.	What does that cost you for each camp?	22. About 4 or 5 rupees are spent on feeding the chheras; 150 rupees is the total cost for each camp.
23.	Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?	23. The officers make payment in part only, but the money is paid to the tapedars.
24.	If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?	24. The loss falls on me, and not on my haris.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. I spend nothing and receive nothing.

7. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Generally, I do not have to. I provide horses, etc., occasionally.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. As I provide my own animals it costs me nothing. If, however, it costs me something occasionally, no payment is made.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. I spend nothing and receive nothing. I get supplies from my own stock. I get them on payment, if they are not available in my stock.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. Rs. 500 or Rs. 600.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I make the rasai myself.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. I do not receive payment. The tapedars prepare bills and appropriate the money.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars. It should also be possible for every officer to take out his supplies with him. Again, there are shops in every village at which supplies are obtainable.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. No.

36. What are you special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. The system of appointing contractors is a good system and will lead to the suppression of rasai.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I presented dhalis before 1914. It cost me Rs. 5—10.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means what is paid as a gratification over and above Government charges.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are various forms. It is levied in all departments, excepting the Police Department. There is no uniform practice. Every zamindar pays something in his own way.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied in lump sum or at a certain rate per survey number or per assessment.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by tapedars, abdars, daroghas and forest rangers as a present for themselves. If they do not get it, they give us trouble. It is not levied by the police.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Unauthorized lapo is paid under compulsion. I have to pay both.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. There are no fixed amounts. They do not take the form of daily allowances. They are paid when they are asked for. If they are not paid, the men will look at us with contempt and trouble and disrespect us.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is not levied in the Police Department, it is paid in matters of land revenue, irrigation and forest, in order to avoid trouble in respect of boundary marks, etc., from tapedars, and in respect of cattle from forest officials. In such cases there may or may not be any favour.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Tapedars, daroghas, and abdars levy it once a year.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I have to pay about Rs. 500 or Rs. 600.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system of any other special orders of Government?

51. It is not possible to prevent lapo, unless the zamindars are asked to pay an assessment which is fixed for 5 or 10 years. This will enable them to remit their assessment in instalments direct to the treasury without having to go to the tapedar for the number-shumari entries which will not be wanted. The zamindars should not pay the money-order commission.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

52. Chher means labour employed without wages at the request of the officers and at the instance of the zamindars.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are zamindars' haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To load and unload kit, etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officers of Government?

56. They get food only from the zamindars, they get nothing else.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. Twenty-five or 30 chheras.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. 10 or 15 chheras are required for bringing supplies, and 10 or 15 for pitching camps, etc.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get food only from the zamindars, they get nothing else.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They are brought by the zamindars. They get no wages. Some come willingly out of their regard for zamindars and others by force. They get nothing from the officers. They get food only from the zamindars.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. The number depends upon the actual requirements. About a hundred are required. They are furnished by the local zamindar.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. They are of benefit to the public for a short time.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number required varies from 100 to 1,000. They are supplied by the zamindars.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get nothing, but food from Government.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available to a great extent on payment of a daily wage of 8 or 10 annas.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Certainly.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. I consider chher ought to be abolished and ordinary paid labour engaged in its place.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GOPALDAS JETHANAND.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Gopaldas Jethanand Shivdasani.

2. Occupation. — 2. Manager of my father's lands.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. Paying land revenue about Rs. 4000.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad, Sind.

5. Public employment, if any such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. No.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai means to supply provisions and other necessary articles to touring officers.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 4 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Deh No. 43, in Nasrat taluka, deh Maksud Rind, Deh Lundoo, taluka Shahdadpur.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, the muktiarkar, the D. S. P., the inspector, the sub-inspector, and others.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Flour, rice, mutton, hens, eggs, milk, butter, jars, firewood, vegetables, etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. In Nasrat taluka those supplies are provided by the shop-keepers in my deh. They get in the supplies two days in advance of the camp. At the camps in Shahdadpur taluka the neighbouring zamindars make rasai jointly.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. I get provisions from banias on payment. I pay for what I get from the haris. Such is the practice on the Nasrat. In Shahdadpur there is a different practice. The tapedars get provisions from the modi and other supplies from the zamindars. Sometimes he takes cash also. Some of the zamindars in their turn get supplies from their haris and others get them on payment.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? — 13. I pay for them at the following rates :—

Fowls 6 to 8 annas each; eggs from 6 to 9 pies each; goats from 2 to 3 rupees each; butter from annas 12 to Re. 1 a seer.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. I get firewood from my own haris who get it from the jungles and bring it to camp. Firewood costs me nothing.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. The servants of the officers always demand a larger quantity of provisions for their masters than is necessary. A part of the provisions is appropriated by themselves. Hence I cannot estimate the daily cost of supplies in the case of the officer.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. The total khanda in connection with a camp is paid. No separate accounts are kept for individuals. But I can say that the average daily cost in the case of the mukhtiarkar's camp is Rs. 10 and in the case of the Deputy Collector's camp Rs. 20.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. Answered under No. 18.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?

21. I have to provide water jars, cots, stabling materials and other supplies. These articles in Shahdadpur are supplied by small zamindars. About 70 jars, 60 cots, and 10 mats are required for the camp of Collector; about 50 jars, 40 cots, and 5 mats are required for the camp of the Deputy Collector; about 20 jars, 25 cots, and 2 mats are required for the camp of mukhtiarkar.

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

22. The amount various from Rs. 30 to Re. 75.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. I do not receive payment.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. I have to bear the whole of the expenses.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. At the Nasrat they put up in my house.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. It cost me nothing.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. It costs me nothing. The haris have to bear this impressment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. The daily cost of the rasai of the mukhtiarkar is Rs. 10. As regards the rasai of other officials it has never cost me more than Rs. 8 or 9.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. About Rs. 250.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I do not make rasai myself; my munshi makes it.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. The tapedars and butler prepare the bills, charging 4th of the actual cost. I do not receive payment. The money is given to the butler.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. Zamindars and tapedars should in no way interfere with rasai.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. It would be possible to find contractors.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Rasai is a sort of robbery leading to zamindars' destitution. They always borrow money when they make rasai, with the result that they gradually lose their lands. If they fail to make rasai, they suffer abuses, insults, and threats, also false complaints are filed against them by the tapedars. The poor men have to undergo various troubles. Police officials practice high-handedness.

Some big zamindars obtain favours from Government by making rasai. The officers are sometimes partial to them. This is natural. When the mouth eats the eyes must feel ashamed. There are persons who even though not connected with land, supply bags of corn and ghee to officials and obtain favours from them. The officers grant lands to such men without any hesitation to the great dissatisfaction of hereditary zamindars. Rasai work should be immediately taken out of the hands of the zamindars and tapedars and the touring periods should be greatly curtailed. The officers should take the necessary articles with them. Such articles as cannot be carried by them should be supplied by the local fund beldars who should be informed of their requirements beforehand. They should be given money in advance for the purchase of these articles as they would not get anything on credit. The powers of the tapedars should be curtailed especially in respect to proceedings under Form No. 8. The tapedars immediately after doing the numbershumari should give a list of numbers to each zamindar or his man, This will afford convenience to zamindars. Thirdly the tapadars wield great influence at the kacheries and lands are granted on their

recommendations. This should stop. It is suggested that the Deputy Collectors should have the mukhtiarkars by their side at the kacheris. The mukhtiarkars are after all officers and they must have regard for their position. The tapadars generally deceive. Particulars regarding government survey numbers should be made available to enable the Deputy Collector to dispose of lands according to rights. These particulars should also show whether there are any trees on the lands. The tapedars are particularly cruel in this matter. They take bribes when issuing kacha parwanas. The Mukhtiarkars should deal with reference from the tapadars very carefully. This is not possible until the present burden of work of the mukhtiarkars is made lighter by the separation of the revenue and judicial functions. The judicial work of the officers occupies most of their time so that they cannot pay sufficient attention to the complaints of the people. The mukhtiarkars should themselves make personal inquiries, not rely upon the tapadars while assessing income-tax and granting takavi.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Dalis of fruit and vegetables are to be presented to officers in camp. It costs from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. It will be all the better if the practice of giving dalis is abolished.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means an unlawful impost imposed by the tapedars on the zamindars.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are many forms of lapo. The tapedars levy lapo from big zamindars at the rate of rupee 1 per number. From small zamindars they levy rupees 2 or 3 per number. If a zamindar applies for a fallow number at a kacheri the tapadar takes Rs. 4 from him per number. The tapadar takes even Rs. 10 per number if Government numbers are taken up at a kacheri. If a dispute exists among zamindars regarding a mohag land, the tapedar recommends him who pays him more tham others. Apart from lapo in cash the tapedar gets corn, grass and other produce such as tobacco, tilseeds etc. Such lapo is also levied by the Public Works Department officials. They also levy certain rate per wheel on canals. The police officials take baskets of ears of corn, grass and toyas of grain per waterwheel. But there is no cash payment fixed for each waterwheel.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. On my side lapo is levied per survey number.

42. By whom is each form of unaurized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by the tapedars, daroghas, and police officials. The lapo levied by the tapedars, is levied ostensibly for the purpose of making rasai. But rasai out of taluka headquarters is made by the zamindars. The ghari-hire and camel-hire to the munshis is paid by the tapedars from their lapo. The lapo levied by the daroghas and muccadums is levied by them for the purpose of making rasai for their own offices. There is no fixed lapo for the police officials. They have various ways of robbing people and securing money. If a theft is reported, the police have a good time. If the complainant does not bribe them, then woe be to him. The police official will forthwith mount his horse and go to the scene of offence. He will then kick the complainant and ask him to bring cots and grass, to kill a kid and prepare his meals, to cut firewood and make a fire. In short the complainant will have his life squeezed out of him. Now it will be difficult for him to get himself out of the hands of the police let alone the property stolen. Either his wife's honour will be questioned, or his information to the police will be found fault with. There will be no footprints and no trace of the property. The complainant will be asked to report a case not of the theft but of house-breaking. If he is not aggreeable he gets a thrashing. Sometimes the complainant brings round the police by paying them some money. Then others are harassed and the pockets of the police are filled.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I have to pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as as well as make such presents?

44. Money presents are made to the servants by the zamindars. The tapedars too make money presents to them. The fee for driving the first peg is paid by the tapedar out of his lapo.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowance?

45. I do not make money presents with my own hands. The peons and servants of the Deputy Collector and the servants of the munshis are paid Rs. 10. The peons and the servants of the mukhtiarkar are paid Rs. 5.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Lapo is paid to the tapedars not with a view to particular favours but to prevent them from creating troubles for the zamindars. For instance, if a zamindar refuses to pay lapo and if a tree is found to have been cut in his neighbourhood he will be charged with having cut the tree even though he was not the real offender. If storm water flows through a hole in a channel into a barani cultivation, the whole cultivation will be entered as moki instead of barani cultivation. Trouble is also given in connection with boundary marks and ridges. Wheel cultivation will be entered as moki cultivation. Even the Commissioner cannot undo the tapedars' entries. This is possible because the tapedars have wide powers.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. They are exacted by the tapedars in the Revenue Department, by the daroghas and muccadums in the Public Works Department, and by the subordinate officials in the police.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I do not pay lapo but a lump sum. This amounts to Rs. 100 a year.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. Lapo has not been reduced by the rules of 1914. It has on the contrary increased. I can say for myself that I have reduced it.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. Lapo has not been reduced by making payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars. The tapedars calculate and levy lapo at the end of the year.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Lapo will stop if the powers of the tapedars are curtailed as I have suggested in the answer to No. 36. The pay of the mukhtiarkars and the tapedars should be increased. Applications for brick kilns should not be made. Rights over trees growing on zamindari karias should be conceded to the owners of the karias. If high officials make an earnest effort to suppress rasai and lapo considering it as their duty to do so, it is possible that the evils will disappear shortly. Their keenness in revenue matters always results in success. Compulsory education is necessary. Uneducated zamindars get less respect from the officers.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means to work without payment for the officers.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. The chheras are zamindars' haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. They are required to prepare roads, to sweep camping grounds, to pitch tents, to fetch water, &c., &c. The officials of the P. W. D., send for them to cut wood for embankments and to close breaches.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. They hold their lands on express condition to assist in the execution of Government work.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. They receive no remuneration.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. At the camp of the Commissioner at taluka headquarters more than a hundred chheras is required. At the camps of the officers in my deh 20 chheras are required on the first day and 8 or 9 on the subsequent days.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. Answered under No. 56.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?

59. They get nothing in cash from the zamindars or officials. The zamindars only feed them.

60. 'How many 'Chhers' are required for shikar ?

60. I do not know this.

61. Do they come willlingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. They do not come willingly. They work unwillingly.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?

62. Whenever any officer is about to arrive the chheras prepare the Local Fund roads.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?

63. Such repairs are of benefit to all. But they should be carried out by those who are in charge of the roads.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Board ?

64. They get nothing.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. The number depends upon the magnitude of the breaches. In some cases from 10 to 20 men are required. In others from 50 to 100 men are required or even more.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?

66. The zamindars feed them ; but in some places the officials of the P. W. D. also feed them.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?

67 Yes.

68. How far is casual paid 'labour available in your neighbourhood ?

68. Casual paid labour can be had to a large extent in my neighbourhood.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of zamindars ?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?

70. I consider chher should be abolished altogether by Government. Government must pay for it if it needs it in emergencies.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF PIR BACHAL SHAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Pir Bachal Shah son of Pir Sakhi Usman Shah, Kureshi.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindari.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue.	3. Rs. 2,000
4. Residence.	4. Village of Pir Sakhi Usman Shah, Kureshi.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. No.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. Rasai means to make arrangements at officer's camps.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. 20-25 years'.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Village of Pir Sakhi Usman Shah, Sabanvasti, Moorhadi.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, and other officers.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. Fowls, eggs, butter, bran, milk, stalks, firewood, mutton, vegetables, etc.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. I get provisions from the bazaar, and milk, grass and firewood from my own house.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars.	12. I get provisions from the bazar on payment.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?	13. I pay for them at the rates ruling at the time.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Yes.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. I get firewood from the jungles on payment.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. The cost varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. The cost varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. Yes.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. The cost varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables?	21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?	22. It costs me from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?	23. I receive half payment from the officers but the money goes into the pocket of the butler.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?	24. The loss falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. I have houses of my own.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. About Rs. 400 or Rs. 500.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I make rasai myself.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. They have no bills prepared by me and make no payment to me.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes, with a little effort.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. I recommend that Government should appoint contractors.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Yes. It costs me from to Rs. 2 to Rs. 5.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo is an unauthorized imposition.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are various forms of lapo. Re. 1 a number, Rs. 2 a number, Rs. 5 a number. It is levied in the revenue, public works and police departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. The tapedar levies it at a certain rate per survey number; in other departments it is levied in lump sum.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by officials of the above-mentioned departments.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Rasai is apart from lapo which is intended as pocket money.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I have to pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purpose are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. The amount varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30.

46. In unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. No. It is paid with a view to save one's respect.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. It is exacted by all except forest subordinates.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I have to pay Rs. 200 or 300.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

50. Has the amount been reduced by the systems of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkar?

49 & 50. No. On the contrary it has increased.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. What recommendations can we poor zamindars make? Government may do what it likes.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour employed free of payment.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are our haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To prepare roads at the time of camps, to pitch and strike tents, to prepare camping grounds, to carry post.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. They get nothing from the officers of Government but they get food only from the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. From 10 to 50.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. From 5 to 10.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing from the officers, but get food only from the zamindars.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. They must come whether they are willing or not.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?

62. Chheras are required for the purpose when officers camp.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?

63. They are of benefit first to the officers then to the public.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ?

64. Nothing.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. As there has never been any breach in my locality, I have never supplied chher for the purpose.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?

66. I have no idea, as I have never supplied chher for such a purpose.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?

67. Yes, it causes considerable loss.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?

68. Casual paid labour is available to any extent on payment of wages.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?

70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MIR GHULAM MAHOMED.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mir Ghulam Mahomed, son of Mir Mahomed Khan Talpur.

2. Occupation. — 2. Jagirdar, Zamindar and Lessee.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. — 3. Pay Rs. 10,000 as hakabo and jagir cess and Rs. 12,000 as assessment on my occupied land.

4. Residence. — 4. Tando Bago.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. — 5. Vice President, taluka local board.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai means to supply, free of payment, provisions, etc., to touring officers and their establishments.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 20 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Tando Bago, Kak Jagir, Machori Jagir and Khadro Jagir.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Deputy Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer, and the overseer.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. The European officers require for themselves fowls, eggs, butter, milk, firewood, grass and coals. The native officials are supplied with all provisions which are handed over to their servants and cooks who take twice as much as they actually want.

11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. I provide most of the supplies.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. I get them from my own house; I do not get them from my haris and small zamindars. On some occasions when two or three Europeans come together I get fowls, eggs, butter etc., from the haris also.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? — 13. I pay for the supplies at the following rates:—eggs 1 anna each; fowls 8 annas each; butter Re. 1 a seer; milk 2 annas and 6 pies a seer; mutton 4 annas a seer; firewood 5 annas a maund.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes, the market values being, milk 2 annas and 6 pies a seer, firewood 3 annas a maund, bajri or jowari stalks at 2 annas 6 pies a bundle.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. I pay for firewood at the time of rasai.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. The average daily cost in the case of European officers varies from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 3-0-0.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes. If they do not take supplies, I make the daily allowances in cash.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. The average daily cost of such supplies is 8 annas.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes, I have to. But it is difficult to do so. Food stuffs (butter, eggs and fowls) provided for European officers are generally required by Hindu and Mahomedan munshis also, so that it is difficult to meet the requirements of European officers. In some places the munshis are given a rupee daily apart from mutton, firewood and butter.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. The average daily cost for each munshi is Re. 1 and for peons annas 6, and for private servants 6 to 8 annas.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?

21. I have to provide water jars, etc., etc. I also provide labour for constructing stables and preparing camping grounds.

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

22. Each camp costs me Rs. 60 daily.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. I receive payment from the European officers according to the bills I prefer. Their private servants, peons and munshis do not pay for provisions.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. Some kindly jagirdars and zamindars bear the loss themselves. Others, both Hindus and Mahomedans recover the loss from their haris at the batai.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes. At times they have rowties of their own. In any case I have to put up landhis for bath rooms and kitchens for them.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. The haris have to put up the landhis. No payment is received from the munshis.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. If camels are required for cooks or peons I get them from my haris. Generally they impress camels.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

28. It costs me nothing.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes I have to, but I receive no payment. The camp of the mukhtiarkar including his establishment costs me Rs. 15 daily, that of the public works supervisor Rs. 8. I have to make rasai for other subordinate officials also.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. I receive no payment from the above-mentioned officials.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. The cost to me is from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Rasai is made by my men under my supervision.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. The European officer and the Indian officer on the European list alone pay their bills. The bills are prepared by the tapedar, or darogha and presented through the butler. The payment is made by the officer to my agent. The money is taken back by the butler.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes, provided facilities are afforded them.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai,' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. I do not mind making rasai for a single European officer, but I do not like to make rasai for his establishment (who more or less eat like Enropeans) at the instance of the subordinates officials who rule over us and who are subject to them in the matter of inspection of records.

My suggestions for the supervision of rasai are as follows :—

(1) Each of the European officers should exercise strict supervision like Mr. Monie, Mr. Inyts, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Moysey.

(2) Land revenue should be recovered otherwise than through the tapedars.

(3) The tapedars and supervising tapedars should have nothing to do with the grant of takavi.

(4) Government should be lenient in the matter of grazing and irrigation for the benefit of haris' cattle; also the tapedars should be deprived of their powers in the matter of records of rights.

(5) The tapedars and supervising tapedars should have nothing to do with Form 8.

(6) Cattle belonging to old haris' villages in the neighbourhood of Government canal should not be impounded for drinking water at those canals or for resting under the shade of trees thereon.

(7) Proceedings under Section 110 should not be initiated except by the District Superintendent of Police, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the mukhtiarkar.

(8) The extorting of confessions by the police should be strongly objected to. The Police behave themselves very irregularly in villages. They sometimes detain in their possession the wives of offenders. They commit various other atrocities and act in such a way as to interfere in one's religion. In this country not even 5 out of every thousand women are educated and the percentage of literacy among men is hardly one. It is therefore all the more necessary for Government to educate half the population, as Hyderabad Amils are educated. If the people are educated, they will not be subjected to malpractices.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I present dalis of vegetables to officers. It cost me Rs. 50—60 a year including railway charge.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. The practice does no good to us, nor does it do any harm to us. It rests with Government to continue or discontinue it.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means an illegal gratification received by a Government servant.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are various forms of unauthorized lapo :—

(1) The tapedar, the supervising tapedar, and the settlement munshi jointly levy lapo on ijazatnamas and kabuliayats, for esksali and permanent grants. If the repairs to boundary marks are carried out by the zamindar himself, even then he pays a lapo of 15 per cent to the tapedar and supervising tapedar.

(2) 10 per cent is levied on the grants of takavi paddy, rice and ghee are also given to the tapedar and supervising tapedar.

(3) The munshies of the magistrates receive illegal gratifications from complainants and accused when bail bonds are taken from them.

(4) The police munshi gets money from the complainant when the accused is challaned.

(5) The tapedars get lapo on cultivated areas in various forms, such as cash, rice, ghee, paddy, molasses, sugarcane, mangoes etc., etc.

(6) The darogha levies 1-2 rupees per karia. He also gets rice etc., from the zamindars. He gets butter and milk from the haris residing in old villages in the neighbourhood of Government canals for allowing their cattle to water at such canals or to rest under the shade there. The haris are greatly under his control.

(7) The subregistrar also charges 8 annas or Re. 1 per cent, and the licensee (vendor of stamps) Re. 1 per cent.

(8) The case of the police is exceptional and so are their ways of oppressing people.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. From big zamindars lapo is levied at 5 or 6 per cent. From zamindars whose holding consists of less than 50 numbers it is levied at the rate of Re. 1 per number. The charge is Rs. 2 per number in the case of zamindars who own 5 to 10 numbers. If two or three zamindars are the joint occupants, the tapedar levies Rs. 2 per number from each of them. Rice or paddy and grass for the horse are also taken by him. If a zamindar has to mortgage or lease his numbers or to apply for remission on them, he cannot get the required particulars unless he pays something to the tapedar.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and darogahs, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the settlement munshi and the darogha.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Unauthorized lapo is levied not to cover the cost of rasai but for the personal use of the taker.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Unauthorized lapo is not levied for making money presents to the private and official establishments of touring officials. Zamindars have to make such presents from their own pockets.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. At every camp there are customary payments to be made to the officer's servants, peons, sweeper, dhobi, syce, bhisti, masal, butler and mistri. These amount to Rs. 20 or Rs 25. They are paid so that the men may make no fuss and find no fault with the supplies, and the officers may go in peace as they came.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Unauthorized lapo is paid to prevent the tapedar from entering uncultivated numbers as cultivated, and complete failures of crops as partial failures, from assessing the grass grown by the haris for their farm cattle, from creating trouble in respect of bridges and karias which though of a long standing are not on the records, and lastly from making dishonest changes in the entries of rights and enjoyment. It is paid to the darogha with a view to prevent him from impounding the cattle of haris living in villages in the neighbourhood of Government canals for watering at such canals; and from reporting cases of karias not having masonry mouths from Government canals with a view to their closure. The tapedar, the supervising tapedar and the settlement munshi are in the same category.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I pay about Rs. 1,200 or 1,300 annually.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. The mukhtiarkars can do much; but just as the circular of 1914 has failed, so will the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars fail of its purpose.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Europeans who are the rulers of the country should know how best to stop lapo. The ruler of the country can make all sorts of conveniences for his subjects. No improvement can however be looked for unless strict measures are adopted. The Land Revenue and Irrigation Acts should also be modified.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means a number of men employed without payment of wages.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. The chheras are poor haris having nothing which they can call their own. They are illiterate and ignorant and ever ready to obey orders.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. As soon as the programme of a touring officer is communicated they are asked to prepare the local fund roads. If there is much labour involved in putting in order the local fund roads, a temporary path is made which is sometimes four or five miles long.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. The chheras do not hold lands on such conditions. They are haris under the batai system and perform such labour at the instance of their zamindars.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. They get no remuneration from the zamindars or from the officers of Government. The zamindars feed them unwillingly. Sometimes the chheras do their work without any food at all.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. About 25 chheras are required for the Collector, the Executive Engineer and others. They prepare the camping grounds, build stables and landhis, pitch and unpitch tents, load and unload kit, and place it in proper order.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. Answered under No. 57.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. No. They get nothing from the officers or from the zamindars. Where there are frequent camps of officers there the chheras are anxious to migrate to other places. It is difficult however to leave one's own native place.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. 8 chheras are required for partridge and snipe shooting and 25 for water fowl shooting.

61. Do they come willingly or not, and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They do not come willingly. They come under pressure from the zamindars. They get 4 or 5 annas on an average from the officers for the time they are detained.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. No chheras are required to supplement repairs to the roads by the local board as the kalar roads here need no such supplementary repairs.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Such repairs are of greater benefit to the officers than to the public as the former travel by carriage and the latter on horse back or on foot.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. They get nothing, as stated in my note which I forwarded to Mr. Thomas when he was Collector of this district.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. Breaches of canal banks are very sudden and dangerous. About 300 men are employed on the more serious breaches. These are zamindars' haris.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. The zamindars feed the chheras for labour on breaches. The officers of Government pay 4 or 5 annas per head to the zamindars on account of the food of the chheras. The time is so critical and the work so hard and dangerous that every chhera ought to be paid a rupee per day.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Breaches and heavy rainfall coincide. The haris who have vacated their villages and temporarily settled at a distance of 20 or 25 miles are sent for by the zamindars to close breaches. When so employed the chhera haris are all the while anxious about their cattle and children lest the former may be stolen and the latter die of hunger.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Casual paid labour is available in my neighbourhood. If such labourers are employed for closing breaches, they will demand not less than a rupee a day.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. It could be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindar, as it is procured for railway works and new canals. The contractor must pay adequate wages.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Chher is indispensable for closing breaches. The work of closing breaches is a very hard one, and is performed under very hard conditions. The chheras get no sleep at night owing to mosquitos or rain fall. Their wages therefore should be Re. 1 per day. My prayer to God is that Government may put an end to these troubles of the chheras so that they may pray for Goverumont.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MIR MAHOMED BUX.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Mir Mahomed Buxkhan Talpur son of Mir Imambuxkhan, Jagirdar, Tando Ghulamali.
2. Occupation.	2. Jagirdar and zamindar.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue.	3. Land revenue about Rs. 5000.
4 Residence.	4. Tando Ghulamali, Taluka Dero Mohbat.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. Honorary Bench Magistrate.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. Rasai is drived from rasad which means to provide supplies at camps of officers.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. 17 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Tando Ghulamali, Dumbalo, Goth Chakarlund.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Executive Engineer and the Superintendent of Police.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. They require provisions for themselves, their camp establishments, and their riding animals.
11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. I get those supplies from the bazar except firewood, grass and milk which I get from my jagir.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. I get them from banias on payment.
13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates?	13. I pay for them at the ruling rates.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. They have no market value, because I get grass from my own lands and milk from the haris.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. I get firewood from my jagir. I pay nothing for it. It cost me nothing to bring it to camp as the haris of my jagir bring it to camp free of charge.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. The average daily cost is not less than Rs. 2.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. From Rs. 10 to 100.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. Yes, one rupee is paid for each munshi daily.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. From Rs. 5 to 30.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?	21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?	22. From Rs. 100 to 500.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. No.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerk?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. It cost me nothing because I have my own bungalows and otaks.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. I have to provide camels and carts.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 50. I receive no payment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. It costs me from Rs. 5 to 15. I receive no payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. It costs me over Rs. 2,000.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I make rasai myself.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars, or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. Payment is made by officers only at half rates on bills, the money being taken back by the butler.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and the zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. I cannot say.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai', and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. I am of opinion that independent contractors should be appointed to whom payments should be made at the huzur treasury.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I present dalis. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means an unlawful impost.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are various forms of *lapo: from 1 rupee* to 2 Rs. per No., also 5%, also a *lump sum from Rs. 50* to 100. There are fixed annuities for the Police, P. W. and revenue departments which vary *from Rs. 10 to* Rs. 100.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number, or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied in the form of 1 rupee per number, 2 rupees per number, 5% or a lump sum from Rs. 50 to 100.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied in the Revenue, Public Works and Police Departments.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. No, I pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amount of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. I make money presents in addition to daily allowances.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is not a charge for particular favours. It is a compulsory payment. If it is not paid, false reports are made.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. It is levied in all the departments mentioned above.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. From Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No. It has on the contrary increased.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour employed without remuneration.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are my haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To repair roads, to pitch and strike tents, to bring the post, to load and unload kit, to construct landhies, etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No. They have no lands of their own. They work as chheras because I ask them to do so at the instance of subordinate officials who require their services in connection with officers' camps.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. They receive nothing from the officers of Government; they are only fed by the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. From 25 to 200 men are required at the camps of the European officers including the Deputy Collector.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. From 10 to 25 men.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They receive nothing from the officers but they are only fed by the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. There is no shikar here; no chher is therefore provided.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come at my call though unwillingly.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. I provide chher every year as the public roads within my limits are repaired by my chheras.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Yes.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?

64. They get nothing from the local board or Government officers but they are only fed by the zamindars.

65. How many "Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. No breaches occur in my part of the country because of the great deficiency of water supply there.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. I cannot say as there are no breaches in my locality.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. It does interfere and causes very great loss.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. I cannot give the number. I think labourers can be had on wages.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MIR HUSSAIN BUX.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mir Hussain bux Khan Talpur son of Mir Ghulam Allah Khan Talpur Shahwani.

2. Occupation. — 2. Jagirdar.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. My jagirs measure about 40,000 acres. They are in Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, and Thar and Parkar Districts. I pay about Rs. 6,000 as Hakabo.

4. Residence. — 4. Tando Mahomed Khan.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Vice President of the district local board, Hyderabad.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai is derived from the word rasad which means to supply, i.e., to supply provisions etc., at officers' camps.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 15 years'.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Jagir Noorai in taluka Hyderabad, jagir Marah in taluka Tando Mahomedkhan, Bulakhan in taluka Jati and at other jagirs.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Deputy Collector, the Executive Engineer and the District Superintendent of Police camp in Tando Mahomedkhan; while at other jagirs subordinate officials camp.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. Milk, butter, fowls, eggs, sugar, ghee, etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. I get some of those supplies from the adjoining villages and others from towns on payment.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. I get some of the articles from my haris, some from the bania shop-keepers on payment and some from my own house.

13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? — 13. I pay for the articles I get from my háris. Some zamindars do not pay. I get grass and firewood generally without payment. Sometimes I pay for things at the ruling rates.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. In the neighbourhood of large villages and towns zamindars buy stalks, get firewood collected by their haris and obtain milk free of payment from the country round.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. The haris are asked to bring firewood from the jungles and in return they are only fed in some cases. Camels and carts are hired to bring it to camp.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. About Rs. 3 or 4.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. It depends upon the number of the men and varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50. The cost per head is from 12 annas to a rupee.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. It depends upon the number of the men. It varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50. The cost is Rs. 2 per head.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? — 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

22. Rs. 100 is the daily cost for the Commissioner's camp; Rs. 50 is the daily cost for the Collector's camp; Rs. 30 is the daily cost for the Deputy Collector's camp.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. I receive payment from European officers. I receive nothing from their official staff, private servants, and munshis. These obtain receipts without making payments. The butlers sometimes take the money back from me.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. I have to provide quarters for the clerks in places where neither Government buildings nor tents are available. Sometimes landhis are construted for the munshis.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. It does not cost me anything to provide houses for them; but the construction of landhis does cost me something. I receive no payment.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. No.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

28. No.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. I have to make rasai for subordinate officials also at places other than taluka headquarters.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. The cost varies with the status of the officer. No payment is received.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. I have kept no annual statements giving the information.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Before the issue of the Circular of 1914, every Mukhtiarkar used to draw up a list of all zamindars and jagirdars some time in advance of an officer's camp. Every one of them had to subscribe a certain sum fixed with reference to his status and respect. Apart from this they handed over fowls, eggs, kids, firewood, milk, butter, cows and buffaloes to the tapedars and supervising tapedars, according to the status of the officer. Since the year 1914, the Mukhtiarkar selects one man from amongst the zaminders and jagirdars to make rasai. The man so selected makes the whole rasai.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. I prepare the bill and receive payment from the officers direct.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. I think that it would be possible to find contractors for whole talukas or sub divisions. I suggest that camping places should be fixed and local banias should be apppinted rasai contractors. I think that this will be a better arrangement. Payment for the supplies might be made on the bills presented by the bania or the bills might be endorsed for payment from the officers' pay at the Huzur Treasury.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Since rasai has been taken out of the hands of the officials and entrusted to the zamindars, the burden of the smaller zamindars has decreased but the whole burden has fallen on the larger zamindars. The larger zamindars make rasai partly from their own pockets, and partly at the expense of their haris. They get by force fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass, firewood, etc., etc., from their haris Hence the poor haris are much oppressed. I do not think that any zamindar is willing to make rasai with his own hands. Apart from the cost he has to bear the trouble involved in making proper arrangements for rasai.

To suppress rasai, the touring period should be reduced from 7 to 4 months and the camping places should be fixed.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. In some cases I present dalis of fruit and vegetables of my own free will. It costs about Rs. 80 a year.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?

38. I consider that rasai should be prohibited but that the practice of presenting dalis and of offering hospitality should continue as zamindars do so of their own free will.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

39. I suppose lapo is derived from the word labh which means an inducement. It is paid in advance to keep the officials from causing trouble.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?

40. I do not think that lapo of any kind is lawful. There may be many forms of lapo. It is levied not only in the Revenue Department but in the Public Works and Forest Departments. The police officials do not get lapo; but when they go to a scene of offence, the burden of their rasai falls on the zamindars, patels and haris.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?

41. It is levied from 3 to 5 per cent. from big zamindars and from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per number from small zamindars and in lump sum from jagirdars. There are fixed annuities to be paid to supervising tapedars, sub-divisional officers and daroghas. These annuities are fixed with reference to the assessment and hakabo of each holder. The taluka head munshis are given corn and ghee.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?

42. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedars, daroghas, and forest subordinates for the ostensible purpose of making rasai for their respective officers.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?

43. I have to pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?

44. I have to pay lapo to the subordinate officials as well as make money presents to the official staff and private servants of the officers.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?

45. Rs. 2 or 3. These money presents are in addition to daily allowances.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

46. It is paid to save oneself from proceedings in connection with boundary marks, to obtain facilities in the payment of assessment, to save cattle from getting impounded for straying into reserved parts of forests, from fear of proceedings under from 8 for irrigation of unassessed numbers interspersed in flow lands, from fear of the magisterial powers of the taluka head-munshis, and from fear of changes in the water supply.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?

47. These amounts are exacted by the tapedars, supervising tapedars, sub-divisional officers, daroghas, beldars, kotars, range forest officers, rangers, etc.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?

48. I have to pay from Rs. 800 to Rs. 1000 as lapo on account of my jagirs.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars ?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?

51. The powers of the tapedars should be curtailed and the mukhtiarkars should first inquire into matters and then pass orders on their reports.

(2) Land revenue should not be recovered through the tapedars. It should be paid direct into the treasury by money order free of commission. Or as in the Punjab, a patel should be appointed for each deh who should

recover the land revenue and pay it into the treasury. The subordinate officials of the public works department should be deprived of the power to make reports recommending the cutting of the water supply of kasis and the making of changes therein.

Chher.

58. Who are the 'Chheras'?

58. They are mostly haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. They are required to prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to prepare roads, to bring water, firewood, grass, etc., to camp, to put up embankments and to close breaches on canals.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. They are forced to work by the zamindars and jagirdars in return for which they get nothing. If they do not obey their orders, either they are proceeded against under section 110, or something is deducted on account of their refusal to work, from their share of the produce.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. They get nothing. But the zamindars or jagirdars feed them. These chheras have to bear the hardships of cold during the cold season.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. The number depends upon the status of the officer. It varies from 10 to 80.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. From 5 to 20 chheras are required to bring provisions, grass, firewood, jars, etc. From 20 to 40 chheras are required to prepare camping grounds, to make pegs and to pitch tents.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. No.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. The number varies from 5 to 7.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. Some of them come willingly as some officers make them money presents.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. Every zamindar supplements repairs to the local board roads within his limits, when officers are about to visit the locality.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Such repairs are of benefit to the public as well as to the officers, but they are carried out at the time of officers' visits.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. Each zamindar has to provide from 200 to 300 chheras.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get food only from the zamindars; but they get nothing from the officers. This year however the zamindars and jagirdars were paid something on account of their expenses in connection with the construction of the Alipur regulator bund.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and zamindars?

67. Certainly.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Labour can be had in my neighbourhood to a large extent except in the cultivation season.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Labourers can be procured except in the cultivation season. Prisoners can also work as labourers.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. I consider chher ought to be abolished. If it is required in emergent cases, the men should be paid at the ruling rates.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF SETH HUSSANALI.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Seth Hassanali Sheikh Alibhoy.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindar and contractor.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue.	3. Land revenue Rs. 700. Income-tax Rs. 100.
4. Residence.	4. Hyderabad, Sind, Sadar Bazar.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. Rasai means the supply of provisions to touring officers free of charge.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. 15 years' experience.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Kachhelo and Jamesabad, which are near my land.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. Almost all touring officers.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. I am not required to supply provisions. I pay in cash.
11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. I do not provide those supplies.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. I get them from none.
13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates?	13. This does not concern me.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Yes.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. If I get firewood for my own use, I pay for it.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. I do not know.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. I have replied to this above.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. I do not know.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. No.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. I do not know.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables?	21. I do not provide.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?	22. The charge is levied per year and not per camp. It varies from Rs. 25 to 50.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?	23. This does not concern me.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?	24. I have replied to this above.

25. Do you have to provide quarters

25. No.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. I have replied to this above.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. No.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. Nothing

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. I make rasai for the Mukhtiarkar, the supervising tapedar, and the tapader. If a police sowar comes, I make rasai for him also.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. It costs me about Rs. 20 in the case of the Mukhtiarkar; Rs. 3 or 4 in the case of the supervising tapedar; Rs. 3 in the case of the tapedar; Rs. 1 or 1-4 in the case of the police sowar.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. About Rs. 75.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. As I have said above I do not make rasai for officers; as regards subordinate officials, I make rasai for them if I am present; otherwise my servants make it.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. This does not concern me so far as rasai for officers is concerned.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. I think all supplies can be obtained on payment independently of contractors.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Rasai should be stopped.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I present dalis of fruit. It costs me from Rs. 5 to 7.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means annuities levied from zamindars by officials of different departments.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. I understand that lapo is levied in all departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied per survey number on my side.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and darogha, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by the tapedar, the supervising tapadar, the abdar, the darogha and the canal-assistant ostensibly for the purpose of making rasai.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I pay lapo as well as rasai charge.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. This does not concern me.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is paid to save oneself from harassments.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Answered above.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. About Rs. 100 on account of lapo.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. If rasai were taken out of the hands of the mukhtiarkars and tapedars lapo might decrease. It might also decrease if the revenue and judicial functions were separated.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour employed at the officers' camps without remuneration.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are Mahomedan haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To repair roads, to pitch tents, to prepare camping grounds, to carry water, grass, and firewood, to attend peons etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Yes, the condition is made with them at the time of giving out lands to them. In return for such services some concession is made to them at the batai.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. The zamindars only feed them.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. I do not know as the camping grounds are at some distance from my land.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. I cannot say.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They are fed by the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?

60. I cannot say.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. They come unwillingly.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards ?

62. I employ 16 chheras for a day or two to repair the roads within my limits.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?

63. The roads are closed to public traffic until the officer has passed along them. When he has passed, the roads are used by the public.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards ?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. I supply 10 or 12 chheras when there is a breach in the canal bank on my side.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?

66. They get food from the zamindars. They get nothing from Government.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?

68. It is available.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?

70. I consider that chher should be abolished.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KISOOMAL TIRITHDAS.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Kisoomal Tirithdas.
2. Occupation.	2. Zamindari and trade.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue.	3. Assessment Rs. 7,000. Assessment on lease of Ali Akbar Khan's land Rs. 23,000. Total assessment Rs. 30,000. Income-tax Rs. 1,603.
4. Residence.	4. Tando Jam, District Hyderabad.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate.	5. Taluka Local Board member.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. Rasai means to provide supplies to officers without payment.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. 32 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?	8. Tando Jam.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Daftardar, the Collector, the Police Superintendent.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. All provisions.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. I get them on payment.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12. I get them at my expense
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?	13. I pay for them at the prevailing rates.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Yes.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. I get firewood from the bazar at annas 4 to annas 8 a maund.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. The daily cost is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. The average daily cost is annas 8 to annas 12 per man.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. Yes.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. The average daily cost is from Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 1-4-0 per man.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?	21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?	22. The daily cost is for the Mukhtiarkar Rs. 10 to Rs. 12; the Assistant Collector Rs. 20 to Rs. 25; the Collector Rs. 35 to Rs. 40.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. No. European officers alone pay Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 on bills for their entire stay. The money however is taken back by their butlers.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. I have pucca houses, hence I spend nothing.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. I provide camels and carts.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

28. For a camel 2 annas per mile, for a cart 4 annas per mile.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. I make rasai for mukhtiarkars and all others except police officials of the lower grades and forest officials.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. I provide lodging, boarding and a riding horse to the tapedar. As regards other officials I have given particulars above.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. About Rs. 600 to Rs. 700.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I am the contracting zamindar for rasai; therefore I make rasai myself under the guidance of the tapedar.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. A bill for Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 is prepared but the money does not reach me.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the zamindars and the tapedars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes provided they are allowed to charge increased rates.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. I object to rasai because it entails an unnecessary burden on the zamindar. In order to put an end to it the tours of officers should be reduced, their camp establishments curtailed and their camps confined to large towns.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. No.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

88. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means a charge levied yearly by the darogha and tapedar on the land revenue.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. It is levied in cash by the tapedar only.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied in the Hyderabad taluka at one rupee per number and in Lar at 5 per cent. on land revenue. In Lar the darogha receives from Re. 1 to Rs. 5 per karia.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by tapedars and daroghas for themselves.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. No. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I make money presents as well as pay lapo.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. They are paid to the munshis, private and official servants of the officers with a view to prevent them discrediting my rasai.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is paid not for favours bnt to save oneself from unnecessary losses and penaltjes.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

47 & 48. The tapedars take about Rs. 1,500 from me.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. A committee of zamindars should be appointed for each taluka. It should be empowered to make inquiries into cases of lapo and the lapo-takers should be punished on its reports. The revenue and judicial functions should be separated. The powers of tapedars and supervising tapedars should be curtailed.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means labour employed without remuneration.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are haris and ordinary labourers engaged to make up the required number.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To repair roads, to pitch and strike tents, and to do work at camps.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. They hold their lands on condition of working as chheras for the benefit of cultivation and not for the purpose of begar.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. No. They are only fed by the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. At the Mukhtiarkar's camp 5 and 6, at the Deputy Collector's 10 to 15, and at the Collector's 25 to 30 chheras are required.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. These men are required daily as stated under reply No. 57.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. The zamindars only feed them.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. There is no game here.

61. Do they come willingly or not, and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come unwilling if they are not paid. Those whom I pay from my pocket come willingly.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. The number required depends upon the quantity of work to be done.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Yes.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. The zamindars alone pay them from their pockets.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. As many as are wanted.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get nothing from the officers of Government. The zamindars only feed them.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. It causes great loss to haris.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. To any extent.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Chher should be resorted to for closing breaches, but not for making rasai at the camps of officers.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MIRKHAN MITHOKHAN.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mirkhan Mithokhan Nizamani.

2. Appointment. — 2. Supervising tapedar.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Guni.

4. Length of service. — 4. 23 years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 19 years experience as tapedar and 4 years' experience as supervising tapedar.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge. — 6. 2 lac acres is the area of my tapas.

7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? — 7. Cots, jars, grass, milk, mutton, fowls, eggs, butter, bajri, rice, flour, ghee, molasses, sugar, pulse, potatoes and other provisions are required by touring officers and their servants and official establishments.

8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars, or other furniture at their various camps? — 8. 15 to 40 cots, and 20 to 50 jars are the further requirements of touring officers.

9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? — 9. Officers take their tents with them. Landhis are constructed for the servants and kitchens and pucca houses are provided for the munshis.

10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? — 10. Where there are P. W. D. bunglalows, there are stables attached to them. In other places landhis are constructed for officers' horses.

11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? — 11. There is a tent for office.

12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? — 12. 2 to 6 labourers are required by officers daily on days other than those on which tents are pitched and unpitched.

13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? — 13. Fair.

14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? — 14. The local fund establishment is responsible as it is employed for the repair of the roads.

15. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? — 15. If there is no pucca road available, a new path is improvised to facilitate the transport of kit.

16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? — 16. They engage hired camels for riding as well as conveyance of baggage. In case of sudden need however such as the falling ill of a camel, one or two camels are provided.

17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? — 17. Their post is carried by the kotars. Sometimes in places other than headquarter towns their post is carried by zamindar's men.

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? — 18. Pir Kadirbux, karia Ganwhar, and Tarai.

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? — 19. There is P. W. D. bungalow, both at Pir Kadirbux and Karia Ganwhar in charge of a keeper maintained by the P. W. D. There is no regular camping ground at Tarai.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? — 20. There are bania shops at Karia, Ganwhar and Tarai.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? — 21. Only to Pir Kadirbux jo Goth.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? — 22. Pir Kadirbux and Karia Ganwhar are provided with P. W. D. Bungalows.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

23. Keepers are maintained therein by the P. W. D.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

24. Rasai is a gratification and is made with a view to the preservation and enhancement of one's respect.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

25. At present on account of high prices an officer's daily requirements cost from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

26. The average daily requirements of an officer's private establishments etc. vary from 4 annas to 1 rupee.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

27. Rice, 4 annas a seer; eggs, 9 pies each; fowls, 8 annas each; milk 2 annas a seer; butter 12 annas a seer, stalks of jowari and bajri Rs. 10-20.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. Yes.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

29. The average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers and their establishments is about Rs. 20, according to the strength of the establishment.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

30. All supplies except provisions are provided by the zamindars through the tapedars. The latter also buy some of the supplies.

31. How are they paid for?

31. As regards the supplies collected by the tapedar, the servants get what they want and pay what they want to on bills prepared in consultation with them. No payment however is received as the money is taken back by the butler except when the bill is paid by the officer at the time of starting.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers, or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?

32. Some of the supplies are bought by the tapedar, and the rest are provided by the zamindars. The money received is paid back to the providers.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

33. The estimated average daily cost of officers is greater than the actual payments.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

34. The excess is borne by the tapedars. In rare cases it is borne by the zamindars.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

35. The excess is paid out of the funds for making rasai.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

36. They receive nothing for water jars etc.

37. Do they obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

37. There are no such gardens in my charge.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

38. There is no change for the better in respect to rasai. At very few places zamindars make rasai. Elsewhere the tapedars collect the supplies while the zamindars sign the bills nominally.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

39. Modifications are necessary. There should be independent contractors. It is difficult however to find such a contractor.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

40. The programmes of officers' camps are received. These are communicated to the tapedars and zamindars with instructions to make proper arrangements. Sometimes officers give lists of their requirements when they have arrived at the camping place.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

41. No.

42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?

43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?

42 & 43. We give no such dalis to touring officers.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?

44. The orders prohibit dalis.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

45. Lapo means what is paid over and above the Government demand.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

46. It is levied as an entertainment fee at a certain rate per number. Or at a percentage on the assessment.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

47. It is levied by the tapedars and subordinate officials of other departments from zamindars who have dealings with them.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

48. There is a different practice for each taluka and for each zamindar. Some zamindars pay 4 annas to 1 rupee per No. Some 2 to 4 per cent on the assessment, and some in lump sum for the year.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

49. A half of it is utilized to cover the cost if rasai, the remainder is appropriated by the lapo takers themselves. There is no regular fund now. The account is settled on the spot by those who had to make rasai and contributions made accordingly; the papers are then destroyed.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

50. There is no rasai fund now as stated above.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. The average annual expenditure on account of money presents and daily allowances is Rs. 2,500. This is defrayed by the tapedars from their lapo.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

52. It is paid as a matter of custom. No favours are shown.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. About Rs. 400.

54. Has the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

54. Lapo has been reduced to some extent by the system of payments of land revenue by money-order and direct at the taluka office.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

55. None.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

56. Lapo can be stopped if the pay of subordinate officials is increased, rasai is stopped and the officers become vigilant. Other suggestions are that the assessments should be fixed and tours curtailed.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

57. Chher means labour obtained from zamindars for officers' camps, etc.

59. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

59. To pitch und strike tents, to prepare camping grounds, etc., etc.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

60. No. They are haris and as such they are bound at all times to do what they are told by their zamindars to do.

61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government ?

61. They receive no remuneration. They get food only from the zamindars.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?

62. Government officials cannot obtain casual paid labour independently of zamindars.

63. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government ?

63. There is a small staff who look after the trees.

64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?

64. Zamindars provide labour with a view to please Government officials.

65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?

65. No.

66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour ?

66. Apart from the men required for pitching tents, the officers require 3 to 6 men to fetch water, and to bring supplies to camp.

67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp ?

67. Answered above.

68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps ?

68. The officsrs require 25 to 40 chheras.

69. Whence do they obtain them ?

69. The zamindars provide them.

70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?

70. They are only fed by the zamindars.

72. How do they obtain labour for shikar ?

72. The officers obtain 4 to 10 men for shikar through the zamindars and tapedars. Sometimes they obtain more men.

73. What do they pay the men ? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment ?

73. If the officers are pleased with their shikar they pay the men at 4 annas or even more per head. The men readily accept the payment.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

75. It is not required now except occasionally.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials.

76. When labourers are required they are fed by the zamindars whose haris they generally are.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

77. Haris, carpenters, drivers, etc.

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

78. The haris get food only. The artisans receive some wages.

79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

79. The employment of chheras for closing breaches does not cause general loss.

80. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards ?

80. This must interfere with their ordinary work.

81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

81. None.

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

82. Chher should be abolished; but the officers should keep 10 or 12 additional khalasis.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. DOST MAHOMED HUSSAINBUX.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Dost Mahomed Hussainbux.
2. Appointment.	2. Supervising tapedar.
3. Headquarters.	3. Matli.
4. Length of service.	4. 33 years'.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 33 years. I was munshi, then a tapedar and then a supervising tapedar in the Hyderabad district only.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your charge?	6. 47 dehs, approximate area 1,47,500 acres.
7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps?	7. The touring officers require flour, rice, ghee, spices, onions, grass, firewood, fowls, eggs, bajri, potatoes, vegetables, grain, mutton, milk, molasses, cots, jars and pegs.
8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps?	8. Their further requirements are about 50 cots, 30 jars, 4 mutkas and other supplies in proportion to the strength of the camp.
9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments?	9. First of all the camping ground is prepared, then landhis and stables are constructed for private servants and horses respectively and then pegs, cots, jars, grass, firewood are provided.
10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps?	10. At camps outside headquarters landhis are constructed, while at headquarters there are already bungalows with stables attached to them.
11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps?	11. There are tents provided for their office.
12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps?	12. They require 25 to 30 men at their arrival, 25 to 30 men at their departure and 10 for the intervening period.
13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	13. They are in fairly good condition.
14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	14. The mukhtiarkar who is the vice-president of the taluka local board. The repairs are carried out by beldars under the local fund mistri.
15. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps?	15. Special repairs are made occasionally when officers come before or after the ordinary repairs. Such repairs are executed by zamindars' men obtained by the naik, the tapedars and supervising tapedars, at the instance of the mukhtiarkar.
16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters?	16. They provide themselves with horses, riding and baggage camels for their tour. In case an animal of theirs gets unwell, they get one from a zamindar, or the punchayat of the place at the next camps free of hire.
17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?	17. The post is carried by the kotars by turns. Sometimes it is sent with a paid special messenger, or zamindars' men from and to the taluka headquarters. The messenger is paid by the tapedar.
18. What are the usual camping places in your charge?	18. Sheikh Birkhia, Ghulam Laghari, Tando Ghulamali, Pharkara, Dunbala, Morewadi, Haji Sanwan, Budho Pherhni.

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

19. At Matli alone there is a regular camping ground. It is kept in repair from the local fund.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

20. All except Morewhadi.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

21. The camping ground at Matli has a garden near it.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

22. The camping ground at Matli alone has a bungalow.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

23. A keeper is maintained at the bungalow by the P. W. D. There is also another bungalow which is on the way to Tando Ghulamali. It is a P.W.D. bungalow.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

24. Rasai means trouble and expense. If one makes rasai successfully one will receive honour and also prosper.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

25. Ordinary Rs. 20 is the daily cost of officers' requirements. It depends on the strength of the establishment.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

26. The average daily requirements for an officer cost Re. 1, for a munshi 0-8-0, and for a peon or private servant annas 0-4-0

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

27. Rice 4 annas a seer, eggs 9 annas a dozen, fowls 6 to 8 annas each, buter one rupee a seer, milk 2 annas a seer, bajri stocks 100 bundles at I5 rupees, firewood at 8 annas a maund at Matli, and outside Matli 4 annas a maund.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. Yes, at some places.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

29. Rs. 15 to 20. This is exceeded in the case of big officers or of large establishments.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

30. Some of the articles are obtained from the bania, a shop being opened where none already exists, The remaining supplies are provided by large zamindars. Where there is no large zamindar the tapedar collects the required supplies from the zamindars.

31. How are they paid for?

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?

31 & 32. Every one pays for the things he obtains from the modi. As regards fire wood, grass, milk and mutton these are obtained free. Eggs and fowls and butter are paid for at reduced rates. The part payment made for the officer is handed over te the tapedar or zamindar (as the case may be) who has made the rasai. The money is utilized by him to cover the cost of rasai. No payment is made for milk; grass, firewood is obtained from outside villages.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with with the actual payments?

33. The estimated average daily cost is greater than the actual payment.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

34. The excess is borne by the tapedars or zamindars who make the rasai. In fact the burden falls on poor haris while others simply knock out things and give orders.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

35. The excess is met by the tapedars out of their own contributions. When they meet at headquarters they settle the account.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

36. The officers pay nothing, see answers Nos. 37 and 38.

37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

37. There are no such gardens.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

38. The rules are in name only. The whole burden of rasai falls on the tapedar. Where there are big zamindars and jagirdars they do the rasai themselves e.g. Mir Mahomedbux Khan in Tando Ghulamali, Mir Bachalshah in Morehadi, Sheikh Sidik Mahomed in Sheikh Bhirkhia.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

39. I recommend that tapedars should have no hand in rasai. It would not be possible to find an independent contractor in the taluka. Every officer can, if he chooses to, lay down rational rules for his camp out of sympathy for the people.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

40. Programmes are communicated.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

42. Do you give 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?

41 & 43.—No.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?

44. Dalis are prohibited.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

45. Lapo means what is recovered over and above the Government demand.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

46. Entertainment charge and contribution to rasai.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

47. It is paid by the zamindars to the officials concerned as a matter of custom and for making rasai.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

48. There is no uniformity of practice. Every zamindar pays in his own way. Some do not pay.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

49. About Rs. 2,000 or even more is spent annually. No fund is maintained at the taluka. The expenses are defrayed in the first instance by the tapedars in charge of the camp. When the tapedars meet together they settle the account and contribute their shares accordingly.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. The above said amount includes payments on account of money presents and daily allowances. There are no fixed amounts of such presents. Some take small presents by persuasion, while others take large presents by force. The establishments of the wakeful officer are satisfied with a little. The contrary is the case when the officer does not keep an eye on his establishments.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

52. It is exacted in all departments. No favours are shown because of it in official matters. At the same time the zamindar who pays it is respected; he who does not pay it finds his respect tarnished, as is the case in respect to rasai.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. About Rs. 425 is paid for the purpose in *Matli* taluka. The more the tapedars, the more the money paid.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

54. No.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorised 'Lapo' or any local orders?

55. No.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

56. There should be fixed assessments on lands based on the averages of last five years. The camp establishments and tours should be curtailed. Pay should be increased. The forms showing kinds of crops should be abolished.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

57. Chher is forced labour pure and simple. Some zamindars supply chher with a view to the enhancement of their respect though the chheras come unwillingly.

58. Who are the 'Chheras'?

58. They are haris. Some zamindars provide paid labourers such as Bhils and Kolhis.

59. What kind of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

59. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to construct landhis, to load and unload kit, and occasionally to help at shikar.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

60. No.

1. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?

61. They are only fed by the tapedars or zamindars. They get nothing else.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

62. Government officials cannot obtain labour. They can, if at all, get 5 to 10 men.

63. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

63. The staff consists of 30 men entertained for 6 months to look after the roads and 10 men maintained permanently to look after the local board trees.

64. How far are the zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

64. They are not bound. They sometimes provide labour out of courtesy. Generally, they bring their haris to work at camps. The smaller zamindars come and work themselves.

65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

65. No.

66. For what purposes do they require labour on tour?

66. They require labour for making paths through the jungle, for preparing camping grounds, for constructing landhis, for loading and unloading kit, for fetching water, for bringing grass, firewood, and other things to camp.

67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?

67. They require 20 to 25 men at the beginning and an equal number at the end of their camp. For the intervening days, they require 10 men.

68 How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp?

68. Answered under No. 76.

69. Whence do they obtain them?

69. They obtain them from the zamindars.

70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars?

70. The officers pay something to those men only who help them at shikar. For other work nothing is paid.

72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?

72. They get labour from zamindars.

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?

73. The officers give some bakhshish to the chheras accompanying them on shikar. The latter accept it readily.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

75. It is required occasionally. See 22.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

76. They are given nothing. They are only fed by the zamindars. In some cases they have their own food.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

77. Labourers, carpenters and drivers.

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

78. The labourers, who are haris, are given nothing but food by the zamindars or the local officials. The carpenters and drivers are paid wages by the P. W. D.

79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

79. It does cause some loss. But they willingly bear this to prevent the loss from floods and breaches.

80. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

80. It certainly does interfere.

81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

81. No.

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

82. Every officer should have 10 khalasis. Travelling by carriage on kacha roads should be stopped. Travelling to camp through the jungles instead of along the public roads should also be stopped.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HAJI FAZULLALLAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Haji Fazullallah Kazi Haji Ahmed.

2. Appointment. — 2. Supervising tapedar, Taluka Tando Allahyar.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Tando Allahyar.

4. Length of service. — 4. 28 years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. When I was a tapedar, I had personal experience but since 1911 when I was made a supervising tapedar, I have known less of rasai because I did not make it myself.

Ganeral.

6. What is the area covered by your charge? — 6. 127,708-17 acres.

7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? — 7. Cots, jars, grass, firewood, milk, mutton, fowls, eggs, butter, rice, flour, ghee, molasses, bajri, sugar, pulses, potatoes, vegetables etc.

8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? — 8. The requirements depend on the officers' establishment; 10 to 50 cots and 10 to 50 jars and provisions.

9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? — 9. The officers have their tents with them. One or two landhis are erected for their private servants and kitchen. The clerks and munshis are accommodated in pucca houses.

10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? — 10. Kacha landhis are constructed for stables except when Local Fund or P. W. D. bungalows have pucca stables attached to them.

11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? — 11. Generally they take tents for the purpose.

12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? — 12. Apart from the number of chheras required for pitching and striking tents, 2 to 6 chheras are required daily. 50 Chheras are required daily at the Commissioner's Camp.

13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? — 13. Fairly good.

14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? — 14. The local fund establishment is responsible, and is employed for the repair of the roads.

15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? — 15. If there are no regular roads to camps, foot-paths are generally marked off to facilitate the transport of kit at night. This work is done by the village establishment in the case of touring revenue officers and by the police establishment in the case of touring police officers with a view to their convenience. It is generally not done in the case of officers of other departments. The P. W. D. and the forest officers already have paths of their own for their tour. In some places such temporary roads are prepared by the local fund establishment.

16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? — 16. All officers engage transport on the monthly system for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters. They never engage transport locally except in emergencies.

17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? — 17. Where there is no post office the kotars bring their post from the head quarters of the taluka to the camping ground. If the kotars are not mounted or if the distance is great, zamindars' mounted men bring their post. Their post from and to their own head-quarters is similarly carried. Perhaps the men are paid railway fares from the funds at the disposal of the touring officer.

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? — 18. The Assistant Collector camps at one village or another in each tapa, and the collector camps at 3 or 4 or even 5 places in each taluka. The Commissioner camps at one or two places in each taluka every three or four years. There is no regular camping ground everywhere. A camping ground is prepared for the occasion with due regard to the weather occasionally by the local fund establishment and generally by the zamindars' chheras.

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

19. There are no regular camping grounds and no man to look after them.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

20. The camping places are generally near villages and bazars where everything is not obtainable at all times unless previous intimation is given to the bania. In some places the banias undertake to provide supplies on payment of advances to them. Sometimes it becomes necessary to have new shops opened.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

21. There are no vegetable gardens attached to camping grounds which can supply vegetables etc. to the required extent except at a certain season.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

22. Tando Allahyar, Chambur, Jhando Mari.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

23. Departmental chowkidars.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

24. Rasai means any gratification made to save and enhance one's respect and at times even to save one's appointment.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

25. The average daily cost varies from 5 to 15 Rs. according to the strength of the establishment.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?

26. The average daily cost is one rupee in the case of an officer, 8 annas in the case of a munshi and 4 annas in the case of a private servant and others getting small pay.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

27. The present ruling rates are the following:— rice 4 annas a seer; eggs 9 pies each; fowls 8 annas each; milk 2 annas a seer; butter one rupee a seer; bajri stalks 100 bundles at Rs. 15; firewood at 10 annas a maund; juari stalks not available.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. Milk, stalks and firewood have market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns. In some rare villages with no bania shop however these have no market values.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

29. It depends on the number of the establishment and does not exceed Rs. 20.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

30. All supplies except provisions are obtained by tapedars from zamindars. There is no zamindar who can meet all requirements. Provisions etc. are stocked by banias at their shops. Every one gets his provisions from the bania on payment.

31. How are they paid for?

31. As regards the supplies collected by the tapedar the servants take more than they want and allow less than they have taken in the bills. They also very often take back the money paid on the bills except when the payment is made by the officer when starting for the next camp which is very rare. As a rule the butler takes the receipt which is nominally signed by one zamindar or another. There are a few officers who give written orders for their daily supplies. Even in such cases the servants take more supplies than they are authorized by their masters to take.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?

32. The tapedar pays for some of the articles collected by him. As a rule the zamindars provide the supplies for which they generally receive no payment. The payments are seldom handed over to the actual providers. They are as a rule utilized towards the expenses of rasai.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

33. The daily cost is greater than the estimated cost.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

34. The excess is borne by the tapedars, or the rasai-making zamindar.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

35. It is met from the source from which rasai is met.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

36. No payment is made for water jars etc.

37. Do they obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?

37. No vegetables are obtainable at camping grounds and none are obtained.

38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

38. The rules of 1914 exist in name only; no effect has been given to them in the matter of rasai which has on the contrary increased from time to time. At a few places only the zamindar provides the supplies. Otherwise the tapedars collect the supplies and the zamindars are the nominal providers.

39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

39. Modifications in the rules of 1914 are very necessary. Camps should be confined to large towns. The camp establishments should be curtailed. Should it be necessary to encamp at a village, all supplies should be taken out. In large towns all supplies should be obtained from the bazar independently or an independent contractor should be appointed for the purpose. It is difficult however to find a contractor who can provide all supplies. What is of the utmost importance is that the touring officer should be vigilant.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

40. Touring officers issue their programmes of tour in advance. The dates however are changed occasionally. They never give previous intimation of their requirements.

41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

41. The rules of 1914 have not been followed except at a few places in the matter of rasai. There are no special orders.

42. Do you give 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?

42. I present no dalis.

44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?

44. The giving of dalis which are obtained on payment is prohibited by Government orders.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

45. Lapo means what is levied from the zamindars over and above the lawful dues of Government.

46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

46. Unauthorized lapo is levied in cash whether it be for entertainment or as anagi.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

47. It is levied from zamindars not only by the tapedars but by the subordinate officials of all departments. It is levied for the ostensible purpose of making rasai. It is mostly utilized for rasai.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

48. There is no uniform practice. At some places it is levied at 3 to 5 % on the assessment, at some at 4 annas to a rupee per cultivated survey number, and at others in lump sum. Zamindars pay it voluntarily either by money order, or in the presence of the officers making recoveries. Educated zamindars do not pay lapo. Compulsory lapo is generally not recovered.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

49. The major portion of unauthorized lapo recovered is utilized to cover the cost of rasai. It is not converted for that purpose into a rasai fund. At each camp items are recorded on slips of paper. After the departure of the camp the total expenditure is arrived at when the men concerned make their contributions and the slips are destroyed. No regular accounts are kept.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

50. There is no rasai fund and hence there is no one to manage it.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ?

51. The annual cost for the whole taluka is from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 according to the number of camps. The amounts of presents and of daily allowances made from it are not fixed. These vary with the greed of the men concerned. The figure mentioned above is greatly exceeded in the year in which the Commissioner visits the taluka.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

52. Unauthorized lapo is exacted by the low-paid subordinates of every department. No favours are shown on that account to those who pay it. Indeed people pay it as a matter of course so that the subordinate officials may treat them with respect and speak well of them before their officers.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ?

53. About Rs. 400 or 450 is paid every year to the establishments of the inspecting officers to mitigate the strictness of their inspection.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ?

54. The rules of 1914 have to some extent affected the levy of unauthorized lapo. One-fourth or one-third of the land revenue is now paid by postal money order and some is paid at the taluka office in the presence of the taluka officer and on these collections the tapedars levy no lapo.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ?

55. None.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ?

56. First, pay and allowances must be increased. The present pay and allowances of subordinate officials are hardly sufficient for their personal requirements.

(2) There should be permanent settlement.

(3) Suitable measures should be adopted for stopping rasai. The officers should exercise great vigilance in the matter.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?

57. It means labour obtained free of charge from zamindars for work at officers' camps or for temporary jobs.

58. Who are the 'Chheras' ?

58. They are generally haris, occasionlly they are peasant proprietors.

59. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

59. To pitch tents, to do miscellaneous work, to collect cots, jars, etc. and to bring them to camp, to clear roads, to keep night watch at officers' camps.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

60. They hold no lands on such conditions, nor are they made concessions. They however regard themselves as bound at all times to respond to the calls of their zamindars.

61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government ?

61. They get nothing but food. The food is provided occasionally by the zamindars, but generally by the tapedar in charge of the camp. They receive nothing in cash. In some places all or most of the chheras engaged are paid their wages by the tapedar in charge of the camp.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?

62. In some places 10 to 15 men can be obtained through the zamindars. In most places none can be obtained even on payment of wages. If wages were given in the shape of a reward, men would come willingly.

63. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?

63. In the cold or touring season the staff of beldars consists of 40-50 men.

64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?

64. Zamindars consider themselves as bound and try their utmost to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government with a view to please them.

65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?

65. None in this taluka.

66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour ?

66. For pitching tents, helping at shikar, fetching water and taking things to and from camp.

67. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?

67. The number depends upon the strength of the establishment. Except at the time of pitching and unpitching tents 4 or 5 men are required.

68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp ?

68. 25 or 30 men are required for pitching and striking tents.

69. Whence do they obtain them ?

69. They obtain chher from zamindars.

70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?

70. The men receive no money.

72. How do they obtain labour for shikar ?

72. 4 to 10 zamindari chheras are obtained through the tapedars and zamindars.

73. What do they pay the men ? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment ?

73. Sometimes when the officers are in high spirits they give them something by way of a gift which is readily accepted.

75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

75. Generally none.

76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?

76. If they are at all employed in emergencies, they are given food only.

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

77. Divers, carpenters, casual paid labourers such as dalharias (who carry baskets of earth) and kodaris (who work with spades) are required.

78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

78. The artisans, divers and carpenters get some wages also. Others get food only.

79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

79. At times chheras are employed on a work which saves cultivation and villages from floods. They regard such a work as important as cultivation itself. But they must get not less than annas 8 per head per day

80. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?

80. According to the period of their employment.

82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government ?

82. Chher should be suppressed entirely which can only be done by curtailing tours and camp establishments.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MUKHI JETHANAND PRITAMDAS.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mukhi Jethanand Pritamdas.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar and merchant.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. I pay both; income-tax about Rs. 4000 and Land revenue about Rs. 8000.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad, Sind.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. — 5. Honorary Magistrate.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai originally means supplies provided on payment. It now means supplies provided free of payment.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. I personally do not make rasai, my agents make it and submit their rasai accounts to me. This has been the practice for years.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Pritamabad, Goth Mukhi Sirumal, Rahwari etc.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, the Mukhtiarkar.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. They require cots, grass, firewood, fowls, kids, eggs, milk, butter etc.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. We get those supplies on payment except firewood, grass and milk which are obtained from our zamindari or from our haris.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. We get them from our own stock, failing which we provide them in the manner indicated above.

13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? — 13. We pay for fowls, eggs, rice and flour at the following rates. From 4 to 6 annas per fowl, from half anna to one anna per egg.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes, formerly firewood, grass amd milk had no market value; but now everything has. Only the rates are lower in the country than in the towns.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. We get firewood from our kabuli land and bring it to camp on carts or camel-back. If we have our own camels available we spend nothing in the way of hire; otherwise we pay hire according to the distance.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. The average daily cost for a European officer is Rs. 5; and for a native officer from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. In the case of the Collector's establishment it is from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30; and for the Deputy Collector's establishment from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. Vide reply to No. 18. There is a slight difference in cash payments only.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? — 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp? — 22. It costs on an average from Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 for the camp of the Collector if he stays for 3 days. For the Deputy Collector's camp the cost varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. Some payment is made by the officers but the money does not reach us. From the establishment we receive nothing.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on us, so far as cash payments are concerned.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Generally they live in their rowties; sometimes we construct kacha landhis.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. We pay for labour alone which costs us from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per landhi. We receive no payment.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. We have to provide camels etc, when they are wanted. Generally officers and their establishments take out with them camels or carts for riding and the carriage of kit.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

28. If we provide camels or carts at the time of need we pay the hire from our pockets. We receive no payment.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. It costs us two or three hundred rupees per year. Some of the officials pay for their supplies. Their establishments pay nothing.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. Rs. 500 on an average.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Rasai is made by my agent independently of any officials.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. The officers make payments on bills which are prepared in consultation with the tapedars and butlers.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of a contractor independent of the tapedars and zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Probably not without effort.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. I suggest that rasai should be stopped altogether. Under the present system the zamindars who make rasai are favourites of officers, while those who do not make rasai find officers offended with them. There are several instances in which men of no standing have become respectable men because of their making rasai. If rasai is stopped no one will suffer in respect. The officers should sympathise with the zamindars.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Yes. A dali of fruit or vegetables costs from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25, while that of sheep from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. It means an unauthorised charge which is levied by the tapedars and the supervising tapedars in the Revenue Department and by subordinate officials in other departments.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are three forms of lapo:—(1) That levied per number or block. (2) Anagi and (3) Lump sum. It is levied in all departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. At 8 annas to a rupee per number, at one rupee to 3 rupees per block. (2.) Anagi at one anna a rupee, like the local fund cess and lump sum according to the zamindar's status and pecuniary circumstances.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by the tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the daroga, the police subordinates, and the forest tapedars. It is levied for the ostensible purpose of making rasai.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai. The lapo paid to the tapedar is partly utilized for making rasai and partly appropriated by him.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. From Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 is paid to the private servants and official staff of officers in the shape of daily allowances with a view to prevent the former from prejudicing the latter against the zamindars or detaining them unnecessarily when they call on the officers.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Yes. It is paid to the tapedar so that he may not enter uncultivated numbers as cultivated and be unduly strict in the matter of boundary marks and give no trouble in the recovery of assessment. It is paid to subordinates in other departments also with a view to keep them from giving trouble.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

47 & 48. Such amounts are exacted by subordinate officials of all departments and as stated above. I pay on an average Rs. 500 a year.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No, very slightly.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. There should be no supervising tapedars and in their places assistant mukhtiarkars should be appointed. Tapedars should have no hand in land matters. The powers of the Police in regard to Badmashi cases should be withdrawn from them. The Commissioner in Sind, the Chief Engineer, and the Judicial Commissioner should not tour at all. The tour of the Collector and the Deputy Collector should be restricted to taluka headquarters towns and big villages. If they cannot get an article without difficulty they must do without it. The tour of the Collector and the Deputy Collector should be for a short time. The pay of the subordinate officials should be increased and the rasai makers and the lapo takers should be proceeded against according to law.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means zamindars' haris and labourers employed without remunerations.

53. Who are the Chheras'?

53. They are zamindars' haris and labourers.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To pitch and strike tents, to fetch water, to repair roads, and to clear canals.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Yes.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. Generally not. In rare cases the zamindars feed the chheras.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. The number depends on the status of the officer. The greater the status of the officer, the larger the number of men.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. From 20 to 40 or sometimes 50 for all manner of work.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. In rare cases they get a little money from officers while they get food only from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. The number depends on the status of the officer.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They do not come willingly. But the zamindars bring them with a view to their own honour.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. The number depends on whether the officer is touring by motor car or horse carriage.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. No.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. They get a little in some cases.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. From 20 to 500 or 1000 in case of breaches in main canals or the river.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. On such occasions the P. W. D. pay them their wages; but the subordinate officials pocket some of the money.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes, if chher is required at the time of cultivation or harvest. The loss so caused is one or two annas in the rupee.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available to the extent required.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. No.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MUSHTAKSING.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Mushtaksing son of Diwan Parsram.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. Rs. 10,000 Land revenue in the Karachi and Hyderabad Districts.

4. Residence. — 4. Resident of Hyderabad; now at Dhandhi, taluka Hyderabad.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. Member of Taluka Local Board, Guni, and Assessor, District Hyderabad.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai means to provide supplies without payment at officers' camps.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. 45 years experience.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? — 8. Formerly Dhandhi only, now both Dhandhi and Dadu.

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 9. The tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the Mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Collector, the Commissioner, the District Superintendent Police, the Executive Engineer, the Superintending Engineer, the Inspector of Police, the Sub-Inspector of Police, the subdivisional officer of the P. W. D. and daroghas.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? — 10. All provisions, grass, firewood etc. Formerly from 1877 to 1883, when there were fixed assesments, all officers used to take out with them all articles except grass, firewood, milk, butter, jars, and mutton of which they took very small quantities on full payment. Grass and firewood alone were not paid for by them. After the introduction of the Irrigation Settlement in 1884, tapas for the purpose of village cess were created. This change was made about the year 1887. Then came the fallow rules. Since these reforms were introduced, rasai has increased and is increasing from year to year.

11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? — 11. I get them mostly by purchase and partly from my own house.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? — 12. I do not get them from the haris. I get them from banias on payment. I make all rasai at Dhandhi without the help of other zamindars.

13. Do you pay for them, and, if so, at what average rates? — 13. I pay for them at the market rates.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Every article has a market value.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. I get firewood from the jungles. I pay nothing for it except 2 annas per load for its carriage.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. From Rs. 5 to 6 in the case of a European officer.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. From 8 to 9 annas per head.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. The daily charge per munshi amounts to Re. 1-4-0.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

22. From Rs. 12 to 20.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. I receive no payment from the officers' munshis, private servants and peons. European officers generally do not pay. When they pay, they pay at reduced rate, the money being taken back by the butler. To illustrate what I have said :—If they take 6 fowls (price 6 to 8 annas each) they pay at the rate of 2 annas each. All other articles which they obtain are paid for at ¼th of the actual price.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on me.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. I have pucca houses. It therefore costs me nothing.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

28. It costs me 2 annas per mile for a camel or horse.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. The statement of yearly expenses :—

	Cost per occasion. Rs.	A.	P.	Total. Rs.	A.	P.
Tapedar and kotar, 12 times	2	0	0	24	0	0
Supervising tapedar and kotar, 6 times	2	0	0	12	0	0
Mukhtiarkar, 4 times	10	0	0	40	0	0
Assistant collector once	40	0	0	40	0	0
Collector once in every alternate year	50	0	0	50	0	0
Engineer, 4 times	20	0	0	80	0	0
I have no connection with the forest department.						
Commissioner once in every 5 or 6 years	300	0	0	300	0	0
Money presents to mukhtiarkar's peons and cook ...	10	0	0	10	0	0
Money presents to Assistant Collector's peons, butler and other private servants	15	0	0	15	0	0
Money presents to Collector's peons, butler and other private servants	15	0	0	15	0	0
Money presents to the cook of supervisor	4	0	0	4	0	0
Money presents to peons of Engineer	2	0	0	2	0	0
Money presents to private servants of tapedar ...	3	0	0	3	0	0
Money presents to kotar and private servants of tapedar	2	0	0	2	0	0
District Suprintendent Police twice	15	0	0	30	0	0

The beldars, muccadums and darogas of the P. W. D. must get their food on their way through my village and back,

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. Rs. 400 in cash.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I, but not the tapedar, make the rasai. I make it under the instructions of the mukhtiarkar if he is present, as he sometimes is.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars, or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. No payment is made to me or to my agents.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I do not approve of the system of rasai being made by contractiing zamindars or tapedars. All supplies can be obtained independently of a contractor. They should be bought in large towns and taken out on tour. At all events contractors should be men who are not zamindars. They should be allowed higher rates than the market rates as the officers and their establishments get decent travelling allowances.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Rasai should not be taken from the zamindars. The tour should be curtailed. Camp should be confined to large towns where everything can be had. Should it become necessary to camp in a small village or in the jungle, all supplies should be obtained from large towns and taken out except grass and firewood which can be had everywhere. Strict orders should be given to mukhtiarkars and other officials at whose instance rasai is made. Mukhtiarkars, head munshis and officials of other departments should be held responsible for seeing that zamindars who do not make rasai are not molested. If one does not make rasai, one suffers in respect and property. I quote the following instances:—

1. In the year 1903, the Assistant Engineer's camp in connection with the improvement of Hassanali Canal, lasted for 3 months. Rasai was made at first but subsequently it was represented that no supplies would be given except on payment. The result was that my garden land in Deh Nukirji was entered upon, and the garden trees thereon cut down, without payment of compensation without any notification being issued by the Commissioner. I filed a suit in the District Court of Hyderabad which was decided in my favour so that the expenses incurred by Government were in vain.

2. Towards the end of the same year a complaint was filed against me in the court of the first class Magistrate, Guni, in connection with my water course Belo which always got its supplies from the Hassanali. The complaint was that I had opened a closed water course. The complaint was dismissed.

3. In the year 1909, the police got less rasai than they had expected. The District Superintendent of Police on the reports of his subordinates recommended to the District Magistrate, Hyderabad, that I should be deprived of the privilege of a chair. The District Magistrate after making inquiries did not accept his recommendation.

4. In the year 1910-11, a European officer encamped at Dhandhi in my absence. My agents and kamdars were there. As however they did not make money presents to the butler and peons on their arrival, the butler made false complaints to their officer. The officer sent for my agent, reproached him, made him stand in the sun for a short time and then let him off. An order was also issued to me to present myself at his camp. I was told that no good rasai had been made and was asked the reason of my absence. I replied that I could not be present owing to my cases and that my agent and kamdar had made good rasai. The result was that a note was made against me to the effect that my fallow numbers which were forfeited owing to the breaches at Budhkha Takar and Bharam Shah should not be restored to me even on payment of the fallow assessment.

5. In the year 1912, again that officer encamped and a good rasai was made; the peons and butlers however were not satisfied with the rasai. A case was therefore filed against me in the court of the 2nd class Magistrate, Guni, in connection with trees on my lease land which I had cut down for the purpose of cultivation. I went and explained the matter to the District Magistrate who withdrew the complaint.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Yes. It costs me from Rs. 30 to 40.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. I regard lapo as a blackmail.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are various forms of it. It is levied in all departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is leived in lump sum, at 1 to 2 rupees per No. and at 3 to 5 per cent. on the assesment.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by the supervising tapedar, the tapedar, the darogha, the police, the sub-divisional officer. It is paid to save oneself from the loss of respect which is caused by them in unlawful exercise of their powers.

Instances:—The tapedars entered as cultivated 22 numbers of mine which were uncultivated and charged me assesment on them in my bill. I made a complaint stating that the proceeding was the result of delay on my part in the payment of lapo. Thereupon the numbers were omitted from the bill and I was informed of it by the Mukhtiarkar in his orders dated 30th March 1914 and 15th July 1914, copies of which are enclosed.

2. In the year 1916, there was delay in payment of lapo to the darogha on Hassanali canal. The result was that he asked his muccadum to take out some bricks from the sluice of my karia Kharo which takes off from the Khairwah. He then pointed out the injury to the Sub-Divisional officer and obtaining permission from the Executive Engineer, Fuleli Canals, filed a complaint in the court of the 3rd class Magistrate Guni which was decided in my favour.

3. After I got possession of Deh Khudo Dino in Taluka Mirpur Bathoro, the darogha of Sayedwah on account of not receiving lapo in time made a report to the Sub-Divisional officer on which the Engineer issued an order to the effect that no karia should be opened which has no masonry sluice. I had made my arrangements for cultivation before the receipt of this order. However I ordered my kamdars to take water from the other three karias which were open and from the neighbouring zamindars. But the darogha filed a case against me in the Court of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Shah Bunder, which was decided in my favour in June 1917.

4. The darogha of Mahamoodwah in Taluka Mirpur Bathoro District Karachi, filed a complaint against me in the court of the second class Magistrate Mirpur for unauthorized use of water because of delay in payment of lapo. The complaint was dismissed in December last.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Since the issue of the circular of 1914, rasai and lapo have increased and are paid separately.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Tapedars make money presents to the servants of touring officers from their lapo. I also make such presents besides paying lapo.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. Replied under No. 30.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is paid to save oneself from loss of respect and injuries.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. It is exacted by tapedars, supervising tapedars, daroghas and sub-divisional officers.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. From Rs. 200 to Rs. 250.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. Neither lapo nor rasai has been reduced by the rules of 1914. They have on the contrary increased.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. It has not been reduced. On the contrary the burden of the zamindar has increased; he has to pay money order commission and fee to the branch post master which is equal to the money order commission. How can lapo be reduced, when immediate officers lend their support to those who take lapo. For instance, in the year 1915—16, I received bills late. I did not pay full lapo. I sent my assesment

amounting to Rs. 2,000 with my agent to the taluka office. The mukhtiarkar refused to take the money and ordered that it should be paid to the tapedars concerned. The tapedars received the money after recovering the remaining lapo.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. The following are my recommendations for stopping lapo:—

1. Rasai, lapo and chher will not stop unless revenue and judicial functions are separated.

2. Strict orders should be issued to the mukhtiarkars, head munshis, and corresponding officers of other departments who should be held responsible.

3. A committee of educated zamindars should be appointed to keep watch over the subordinate officials of all departments who take lapo, rasai and chher by undue exercise of their powers.

4. Superior officers should carefully and earnestly make open and secret inquiries at camps.

5. Compulsory education should be introduced so that the sons of zamindars and haris may be educated.

6. All members of local boards should be elected.

7. The honour of a chair should be bestowed upon zamindars who pay more than Rs. 500 assessment and the old practice abolished.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means forced labour employed for Government without payment of wages.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are generally haris and labourers.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to carry kit, to pitch and strike tents, to load kit, to fetch water, to carry post, to help at shikar.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. They hold no special lands on condition to work as forced labour.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. They receive nothing from the officers or zamindars. The zamindars only feed them.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. 10 chheras are required at each camp for the Mukhtiarkar; 20 for the Assistant Collector; 150-200 for the Commissioner; and 20-30 for the District Superintendent of Police.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. All of them are required daily until the removal of the camp.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing from the officers, while they get food from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. 10-15 chheras are required for bird-shooting and 100—200 for pig-shooting.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come unwillingly; they get nothing.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. Every zamindar repairs the roads in connection with a camp. Formerly this work was done at the expense of the Local Boards. A larger chher is required because of high officers travelling by motor cars. Last year in 1917 the Commissioner-in-Sind had to travel by motor car from Tando Mahomedkhan to Sujawal. I received an order from the Mukhtiarkar to get the road repaired nicely for the motor car. I was entrusted with 2 miles of the road. I employed 150 men on the work. I submitted a bill of wages for Rs. 75, but no payment has yet been made.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Until the officers have passed along such roads, they are fenced and closed to public traffic to the inconvenience of the travellers. Watchmen are placed at short intervals at night to prevent travellers passing along and spoiling them. Such repairs are not undertaken with a view to public convenience.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. They get nothing except food from the zamindars.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. 40 to 50 chheras are required for canal breaches and 200 for river breaches.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. The chheras get food in case of river breaches, but not in case of canal breaches.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Yes.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Chher should be stopped and labour obtained on payment.

(1)

Copy of letters, dated 30th March 1919, from the Mukhtiarkar of Guni, to Diwan Mushtaksing Zamindar of Guni.

With reference to your petition stating that survey numbers 58, 75 and 77 in Deh Pakhiarki which are uncultivated have been entered by the tapedar as cultivated, you are informed that the numbers in question are uncultivated and have been entered as such.

(2)

With reference to your petitions stating that certain uncultivated survey numbers of yours in Dehs Nukerji, Samijani and Khersar have been entered by the tapedar as cultivated, I have already informed you of the result of my personal inspection of the survey numbers. As however you have again made petitions on the subject, I again inform you that entries have been made in conformity with the result of my inspection. Nothing more can be done.

Deh.	Cultivated.	Uncultivated.
Nukerji	579, 578, 605	...
Samijani	30, 250, 251 255, 257 ...	235, 252, 253, 254, 255, 260, 262, 156
Khairsar	98, 72, 71	...

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. THAKURDAS DHARAMDAS.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Thakurdas Dharamdas.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar and contractor of Public Works Department.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. Extent of zamindari 1030 acres. I pay about Rs. 1,000 Land Revenue.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad.

5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. — 5. I was District Local Board member 5 years ago.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. It means to supply things to Government officers and their establishments without payment.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. I have seen rasai made for the last 17 years, but I have not made rasai personally.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 8 and 9. On account of bad drinking water no camps are made in my zamindari.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?

11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

12. Do you get them from your baris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?

13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? — 10 to 13.—On account of bad drinking water no camps are made in my zamindari.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. Vide reply to No. 9.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. The average daily cost of supplies provided to officers amount to 5 or 6 rupees. The details are :— 2 fowls Re one; a dozen eggs 6 annas; butter half a seer 8 annas; mutton and fish 8 annas; rice and flour 6 annas; ghee ¼ of a seer 4 annas; spices 2 annas; grain for horses 9 annas and 6 pies; grass 6 bundles 12 annas; palal for horses' beds 2 annas; milk 4 seers 6 annas; mutton for dogs 5 annas.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. Yes.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. From 8 annas to 10 annas per servant.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? — 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 20. Rs. 1-8-0 per munshi. Cash payment Re 1-0-0; mutton, milk, eggs and fowls Re. 0-8-0.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? — 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp? — 22. Zamindars spend about Rs. 10 for landhis.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. European officers pay at half rates, the money being taken back by the butler, while the establishments pay nothing.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on the zamindars.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?

26. No payment is received.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Yes.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. 2 annas per mile for a camel and 3 or 4 annas per mile for a cart. No payment is received.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. It costs from 10 to 15 rupees in the case of the Police Inspector, the Sub-Inspector, the Mukhtiarkar, and the Overseer. No payment is received.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

31-33. I pay nothing.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Rasai sucks the blood of zamindars. It entails loss of money and respect. The officers' tours and their camp establishments should be curtailed and their camps restricted to large towns only.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I have given dalis once or twice. It cost me about Rs. 10.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means an annual impost levied by tapedars and daroghas.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. It is levied in cash generally. The subordinates of the Revenue and Public Works Departments are notorious lapo-takers. The Police also levy it by entrapping people.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied at 3 to 6 per cent on the assessment or at Re. 1 to 2 per acre or in lump sum or at a certain rate per survey number.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. By the tapedar Rs. 5; supervising tapedar 1; darogha 1; sub-overseer 2; sub-divisional officer 7 and sub-inspector in lump sum.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. It is levied apart from rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. It is levied apart from money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. Money presents are made to the munshis, private servants and peons of officers so that they may not prejudice their masters.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is paid not for particular favours but with a view to save oneself from harassments, such as proceedings for waste of water, entry of uncultivated numbers as cultivated, treatment of boundary marks in repair as out of repair.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. It is exacted by the Police under threats of proceedings under Section 110; by the darogha under threats of narrowing the mouths of water courses and of making adverse reports to the Executive Engineer and Sub-Divisional Officer.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. The amount depends on the assessment and the number of particular favours.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

49 and 50. No.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. (1) An elected committee of zamindars should be appointed for each taluka to look into cases of bribery, lapo and rasai and to get the offenders convicted. (2) Revenue and judicial functions should be separated.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

52. It means forced labour or labour free of payment.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are zamindars' haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To prepare roads, and camping grounds, to do all manner of work at camps, to help at shikar etc, etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. They hold their lands on the condition of working as chheras for the benefit of cultivation but not as forced labour.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?

56. The zamindars only feed them.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camp of the different officers?

57. About 10 chheras are required for a native officer. In the case of a European officer the number required depends on his establishment and is sometimes 200.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. All the men are kept until the camp breaks up.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get food only from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar.

60. I have no idea.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come unwillingly. They get nothing.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. The number depends on the quantity of work to be done.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Yes, but for a short time only.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. From 50 to 500 according to the amount of work involved.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. The zamindars only feed them.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. It does interfere with the cultivation and causes loss both to themselves and the zamindars.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. It is available to any extent.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Chher should be stopped. Ordinary labour should be employed. It should be obtained through the contractors.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ABDULHUK ABDULLAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Abdulhuk Abdulla Sheikh.
2. Appointment.	2. Deputy Educational Inspector, Mulla Schools, Hyderabad.
3. Headquarters.	3. Hyderabad Sind.
4. Length of service.	4. 13 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 22 years.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour?	6. The districts of Nawabshah and Hyderabad and other towns on the railway line in Sind.
7. What is the period of your tour?	7. About 9 months.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour?	8. Cook and a boy servant.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour?	9. 2 clerks and 2 peons.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?	10. Grain, spices, ghee, pulse, potatoes, tea and sugar. The clerks and servants do not.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?	11. Milk, eggs, mutton and fuel and fresh vegetables. They require all.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour?	12. Official:—3 camp tables, carpets 3 or 4, 5 chairs, 5 boxes and 1 teapoy. Private:—folding chair, 2 trunks, 1 box.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps?	13. 5 cots, 4 or 5 water jars.
14. What tents do you take on tour?	14. None.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?	15. They occupy out houses in case of P. W. D. and district bungalows and private house where none is available, or tapedar's dero or musafarkhanas.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. None required.
17. What records do you take on tour?	17. Current year's as well as of one previous year. About 3 boxes.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?	18. Office is held in one of the rooms of the bungalow I occupy.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?	19. No labour required.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. Does not concern me.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. Am not definite.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?	22. Does not concern me.

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?

23. Camels and carts permanently in winter and sometimes in summer also, otherwise locally.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?

24. I generally encamp where postal facilities exist, otherwise one of the peons brings it.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. Taluka headquarter stations and small towns and very occasionally very small villages.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. None required.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. I encamp where there are bania shops or otherwise my main requirements are with me.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. I do not avail myself of any vegetables from local board gardens.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

29 & 30. I can't answer.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Acceptance of necessaries of life without payment or with a nominal payment.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. 2 pao mutton, 2 pounds milk, 2 eggs in winter, 8 seers fuel, 1 pound ghee, 4 pice vegetables.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. Private servants are fed by me; clerks and peons purchase from the bazar, 1½ seer rice, 1½ seer flour, 1 pound ghee, 1 seer milk, 1 pound mutton. One clerk is vegetarian.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. 4 seers per rupee flour, 4 seers per rupee rice, eggs 2 pice each, 2 annas a seer milk, firewood by load 4 to 8 annas, ghee 14 chataks per rupee.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Yes, where I encamp.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. About rupee 1 annas 8 for self including supplies which I take with me. Rupees 2 of clerks and servants.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. From pocket, my servants do it.

38. How are they paid for?

38. On the spot to the dealers.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. My personal care in the matter.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. Both are the same.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. It is not.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. No. It does not concern me.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. Cots and jars are supplied free of cost and sometimes I carry or buy my own jars. No one has to incur anything for the supply of cots, whereas jars are returned and used for school boys.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

44 to 46. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. In my case 1914 rules are immaterial.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. Independent contractors for big officials would be preferable and for other officers their own servants may do like educational officers.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. Not necessary.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. No, except the Commissioner's circular.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

51 to 53. No.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Tapedar's exactions from zamindars in cash (the greatest scandal).

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. Not in a position to detail them.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Not in a position to detail them.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. Can't say definitely.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. I do not know much, but it is known that a substantial portion thereof is converted into rasai fund.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

59 and 60. I am ignorant of it.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

61 to 64.—Can't say.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. My general view is that such powers of subordinate officials be curtailed as render the zamindar dependent on them and land revenue be paid into a post office without money order commission.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Forced labour without payment or with only rations.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Ordinary villagers and haris (all Mussalmans).

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Repairs of roads and breaches in canals. All sort of work in the camp of an officer.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. I do not know.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. I have heard that sometimes they are fed for the day or the days by zamindars.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. I think on payment labour can be available any where.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. I am not definite.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

89 and 90.—I do not know.

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. Chher is occasionally very necessary but the men employed should invariably be paid in money.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KHUSHALDAS SAHIJRAM.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Khushaldas Sahijram.

2. Appointment. — 2. Special Deputy Collector, Indus Barrage Survey.

3. Headquarters. — 3. Hyderabad, Sind.

4. Length of service. — 4. 18½ years.

5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. — 5. 18½ years, 8 years as Mukhtiarkar in the Larkana, Upper Sind Frontier, and Thar and Parkar districts, 2½ years as Chitnis in the last district, 3 months as special Deputy Collector and the remaining period in the ministerial appointments mostly in the Larkana district.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? — 6. Hyderabad, Hala, Tando Allahyar, Dero Mohbat talukas and a portion of Digri taluka.

7. What is the period of your tour? — 7. Nearly 2½ months. This is a special temporary appointment.

8. What private servants accompany you on tour? — 8. One cook and one syce.

9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? — 9. One clerk, three peons and two khalasis.

10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? — 10. I take all the necessaries except firewood, grass, eggs, meat, bajri, grain for horses. My establishment take nothing.

11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 11. I require ordinarily ½ a maund of firewood, 4 bundles of karbi, 4 eggs and pound or pound and a half of meat, 7 seers of bajri and sometimes little butter.

12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? — 12. Private kit—(1) couple of deck chairs, (2), small folding chairs, (3), teapoys, and (4), camel trunks. Besides 2 or 3 small boxes or khokhas for lamps, etc. Office kit—4 pieces camp tables, 3 chairs, 2 despatch boxes and 2 other small boxes containing office record and miscellaneous articles and 1 rowti for peons.

13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? — 13. One dozen cots and 7 or 8 jars including my establishment and a landhi for kitchen.

14. What tents do you take on tour? — 14. Two swiss cottage tents 12′ × 10′ each.

15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? — 15. Peons use the rowti given them. Private servants use the kitchen landhi.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? — 16. A landhi is sometimes erected. Usually the horses are tethered under trees.

17. What records do you take on tour? — 17. Almost nil.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? — 18. The clerk holds his office in the peons' rowti. He removes his materials at night when the same rowti is used for sleeping.

19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? — 19. Three or four men on the first day to help in loading and unloading and pitching tents and then couple of men to fetch firewood, grass, water, etc.

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?

22. Do you require to have special repairs made and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?

20—22. In answering questions I have confined myself to the appoinntment I at present hold. I therefore presume this question is not required to be answered by me as I have nothing to do with the roads.

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?

23. Baggage camels engaged for the whole period of tour.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?

24. The taluka mukhtiarkars are required to send post every alternate day to camp and the same man takes the outgoing post for posting.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

26. What arrangement are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

25—30. Same reply as to question 20.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. The term rasai is commonly understood to mean supply of provisions and other articles at an officer's camp some of which are not paid for at all and some only in part.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. I have answered this in the answer to question 11.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. About 6 seers of flour and as much meat and milk as they can get gratis; whenever they have to eat at their own cost they hardly purchase anything except flour. My clerk messes with peons or tapedars if they are present in camps.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Bajri 7 seers per rupee, eggs 6 pies each, milk 1½ anna per seer, butter 1 rupee a seer, bajri stalks 5 bundles per rupee, firewood 8 annas a maund; other articles are not required in my camp.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Generally not. But this year owing to dearth of grass, stalks have a market value in many places.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. About five rupees if firewood is included.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Usually a tapedar with the assistance of his kotar. Tapedar generally explains that zamindars do not come forward.

38. How are they paid for?

38. To the tapedar if he brings the supplies or else to the zamindar or his man as the case may be.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. My inquires are the only guarantee. I feel certain for this further reason that my appointment carries no influence whatever.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. Payments equal about half the cost.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. By haris or zamindars.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. Not in my case I think.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. No.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?

44. Vegetables have not been supplied to me from such gardens. But as mukhtiarkar I have generally paid at the rate of rupee one per month.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. No.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. My appointment is a special one and is about to terminate.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. Rules of 1914 were impossible to work as no zamindar was prepared to take responsibility for all supplies individually. Tapedar continues to work behind the scene. He has not actually ceased to collect the supplies.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. A contractor is bound to fail even if found, which, however, I do not think is possible. The only possible experiment under the existing conditions appears to be that of inducing suitable banias—shopkeepers or others—who hold little or no land to take upon themselves the duty of arranging for supplies. These men should be remunerated by grants of land as seris of about 40 acres each. But even in that case cots and jars will still be outside the province of these men to supply, specially for large camps like those of a Collector or Commissioner. I think these may continue to be collected as now for those present.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. In my present appointment I have usually been. But that is not always possible.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. No.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

52 & 53. This I believe, is not the question for me to answer.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Lapo is cash payment received by revenue tapedars for themselves and I believe, in some cases for their supervising tapedars and also by abdars and canal assistants on the Jamrao.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. Lapo as commonly understood has been described above. I know of no other form.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. It is levied from zamindars by the persons mentioned in answer to question 54 for the purpose of conniving at their illegal acts or saving them as far as possible from the consequences of such acts, e.g., boundary marks and on the Jamrao bannas out of repair, unauthorized occupation of Government land, unauthorised water supply or waste of water.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. In large majority of cases per survey number and sometimes per jireb. Large landholders generally pay in lump sum and some pay at a certain percentage on the total of land revenue demand.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. I do not think lapo or any part thereof is converted into rasai fund, but it is on account of the existence of lapo that rasai fund may be said to exist. The fund is now formed from tapedars' pay on the understanding that they will more than make good what they pay from lapo that will be due to them.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. Generally by a taluka head quarter tapedar or supervising tapedar under the direct supervision of head munshi under the general orders of the mukhtiarkar.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. As said above rasai fund is not formed directly from lapo. I do not now clearly remember the amounts paid out of the rasai fund to private and official establishments of touring officers. Last time when I was Mukhtiarkar of Pano Akil all such payments were completly stopped under the strict orders of Messrs. Rothfeld and Isani then my Collector and Deputy Collector respectively, but I know that payments are made to several persons, Government and private servants per camp, for jamabandi and for examination of records.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. I do not think I am concerned with Police or Forest departments. Irrigation and Revenue favours have been shown in my answer to question 56.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. Serious mistakes may not be brought to light or corrected where possible without bringing to notice.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. They had slightly though temporarily checked it. Some terror was then created in the minds of tapedars who quietly accepted what was given to them. But that fear wore off after a year or two.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. Government can really do little I think. It can be reduced to some extent if we are really serious. But much depends upon zamindars themselves who must learn to present a bold front and refuse to make payments. They will no doubt be subjected to petty harrasments, difficulty or losses for some time until matters settle down. I have no modification of rules to suggest.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Chher is labour supplied for the camps of touring officers free of charge and generally paid by a little feed by their zamindars. Some officers pay a little bakhshish in lump sum for all together and generally do so when used for shikar.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Local haris.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. To prepare roads and camping grounds, pitch and unpitch tents, build temporary landhis and help in loading and unloading camels and to do other menial services.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. These conditions are implied.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. I have answered this in my answer to question 66.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. I hold no charge at present. But it is not easily available at many places or I should say positively difficult to procure at a short notice. In some places it is not available at all.

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Beldar system obtains in some districts and in others it does not.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. They are not bound at all. Some men refuse to comply with the demand. But they come forward in the hope of getting abru or gaining influence or from fear of losing honours that they may have possessed.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. Seri and some mamul grants are held but the service expected of these grantees do not include cher I think.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. Pitching tents, loading camels and fetching water, etc.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. Two.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?

77. Two.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. From zamindars if present or through tapedars.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. I do not pay them. I am not sure if zamindars give them anything.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. Mine was a small camp made particularly light so as to enable me to move fast. But ordinarily 2 to 3 rupees would be sufficient. It will, I think, be difficult for rasai contractors to supply at all places.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. Yes. But they will require to be paid at high rates.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. I do not shikar.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

83 & 84. Not for me to answer.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Chheras the number of which depends upon the length of the roads to be repaired.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

86. As mukhtiarkar I generally did not pay them but I avoided such help as far as possible.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. Chheras, that is, local haris the number of which depends upon the extent of the damage and the holding possessed by each zamindar.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. On many occasions Government pay them but on some zamindars pay by feed.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. Little or none mostly.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

90. Not much.

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. Need not be wholly suppressed. But chheras may be paid for at the rate of 8 annas a day.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HIRANAND KHEMSING.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Hiranand Khemsing.

2. Occupation. — 2. Pleader and zamindar.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount ot income tax or land revenue. — 3. About 1,500 acres. Land revenue about 4,000 a year, income tax of the firm of which I am a member about Rs. 400 and personally Rs. 120.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad, Sind.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Free supply of necessaries, comforts and luxuries of life.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. I have never made rasai myself directly or through my agents.

8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai.'?

9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? — 8—9. None.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?

11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? — 10—13. In view of the answer to questions 8 and 9 this does not arise.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? — 15. I get firewood from the jungle. The man who cuts it is in my pay. I never cart to camp.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? — 16. I do not know.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? — 17. I have never made rasai.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? — 18. I do not know.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables?

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

26. If so, does it cost you anothing and do you receive payment?

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? — 19—28. This does not arise in view of the above.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? — 29. For Mukhtyarkar when he comes to inspect remission.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. About Rs. 25.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. About Rs. 25.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Myself.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. No payment. No bills.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. Contractors indenpendent of tapedars and zemindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes, for talukas or sub-divisions.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. No special objections. Rasai corrupts the giver and the receiver. It breeds servility in zemindars and an undue sense of superiority in the officers. Government should visit the receipt of rasai with condign punishment and should make it obligatory upon the officers to give contracts for supplies to officers and their establishments on tour.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. No, I don't.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Certainly.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Payment to tapedar of money for desisting from molesting zemindars.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. To my knowledge there is only one at the time of payment of assessment or whenever tapedar does any work e.g., measuring land granted or remeasuring Nos. or inspecting boundary marks or such like. I know of it only in the revenue department. I don't know of other departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. It is levied either per assessment or per survey No.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. By tapedars and for not making true or false reports against zamindars. I don't know about abdars and others.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. In my experience lapo is taken by tapedar as hush money. Rasai is given by zamindars in addition, partially.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I never make presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. I do not know.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?

46. It is exacted by tapedar for not troubling zemindars in a variety of ways.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?

47. Amouuts vary. They are exacted by tapedars.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?

48. About Rs. 100 a year.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars ?

50. The revenue is mostly paid to tapedars and very seldom to mukhtiarkars.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?

51. Payment of lapo to tapedar can only be stopped by curtailing the power of tapedar to report against zamindars.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?

53. Who are the 'Chheras' ?

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?

52—54. By chher I understand free labour for various purposes such as repairing roads, closing breaches of canals, pitching tents and doing menial services for officers and their establishment.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?

55. They obey the zamindars because they and their forefathers have done it and they have not been taught to insist upon their rights. There is no express or implied condition.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government ?

56. No remuneration in cash or kind.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?

57. I can't tell.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ?

58. I can not supply these details.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?

59. Not to my knowledge.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?

60. I have never supplied any for shikar.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?

61. I don't think they get anything worth mentioning.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards ?

62. Whenever an officer has to pass over a road each zamindar is called upon to repair his mohag.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?

63. Yes.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards ?

64. Nothing whatever from anybody.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

65. According to requirements. There is no fixed number.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?

66. They are generally fed by the zamindar.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?

67. Of course.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

68. Casual labour is available always except in May, June, and July and again in October and November.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?

69. Certainly.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. Yes, except when breaches to canals take place and then fair wages should be paid to the men.

Copy of a letter from Hiranand Khemsing, Pleader, Hyderabad, to the Chairman of the Rasai Committee, Karachi, dated 27th April 1918.

I wish to submit the following note in addition to the answers to questions sent to me, for it appears to me that the questions are very limited, and imperfect and do not cover the whole ground.

2. The extent and intent of the rasai differ as the officer is highly placed or not. The rasai at the Commissioner's camp is far heavier than in the case of Collector's camp, and similarly the rasai at the Collector's camp is heavier than that at the Assistant or Deputy Collector's camp. I have been a witness twice to the rasai in the Commissioner's camp, once in 1898 or 1899 when Sir Henry Evans James was the Commissioner in Sind and again in 1913 when Mr. Lucas was encamped at Badin.

3. On the first occasion it was at Shadipalli, and rasai was in the most sumptuous style. The Mukhtyarkars of Khipro and Umerkote were in special attendance. The Commissioner's establishment had everything they could possibly want. Wines, brandies and whiskies, dishes of meat in great variety, eggs, pudding, pulao, fruit fresh and dry, milk to waste and flowers and nosegays and vegetables, English and Indian, were all supplied and supplied in plenty, gratis. It was a feast run riot. I inquired what the cost of such rasai was, for it extended to nearly 10 days and I was told the cost would exceed Rs. 10,000.

4. In 1913, a special contribution was levied from the zemindars of Badin Taluka to defray the cost of Mr. Lucas's camp. I myself paid my share and my lessee also paid. I was told that the fund amounted to Rs. 1,700 but the mukhtyarkar was soon transferred from Badin and left unpaid bills to the tune of Rs. 700 for which another contribution was made from the zemindars by his successor. I was however not troubled to pay towards the second contribution.

5. Personally or through my agents, I have not been called upon to make any rasai, for my lands happen to be situate where no camp of any officer has been held, but I know that rasai either to the officers or to their establishment is made not on a modest but lavish scale. The clerks and peons exact rasai as if they had been honored guests whom it would be a pleasure to feed and serve. The zemindars who make the rasai are instructed by the tapedars who are invariably present at the rasai to make their bills merely nominal, and the zemindars either through illiteracy or weak-mindedness have to comply. I speak to this from the statements which the zemindars making rasai have made to me. The officers who receive the bill and make payments, could easily if they wished to pay adequately, find out what quantities have been received by their butlers, and whether the rates charged are real or nominal, but with rare exceptions they seldom care. The clerks never pay, and if there is any payment, it is either returned on the sly or is pocketed by the tapedar.

6. It is said that since 1914 there is an improvement in the rasai system. I should think it has made matters worse. Formerly the tapedar was responsible for rasai and he had to humour the zamindar and to some extent be under his obligation for the good things he supplied. After the Commissioner' circular, the onus has been shifted on to the zemindar, and he has to make the rasai without even the show of an obligation to the tapedar.

7. There is a dispute as to whether the payment of lapo is inter-linked with rasai or not. In one way it is, in another it is not. The tapedar levies his lapo upon almost every landholder big or small. Even if a man has only one survey No. the tapedar exacts his one rupee fom him. Such a man is neither listed as a rasai maker, nor is he expected to make rasai. From him therefore the lapo is exacted without reference to rasai, but as the tapedar has to tip the establishment and to defray a part of the cost of rasai, he can never do so without levying his lapo, for his pay is not sufficient to maintain him and his horse, leaving alone his family which is probably large in many cases. In that way alone it is connected with rasai.

8. The only way to stop rasai is to make it obligatory upon all officers to take their commissariat with themselves. Of course it will be costly, but those who call for the tune must pay the piper. Instead of giving clerks miserable salaries and petty travelling allowances, if Government will see that they get enough to live on both at head-quarters and in the camps and provide contractors, the evil will disappear. I know it for a fact, and I can assure you that I have had it from several mukhtyarkars themselves, (whose names it is unnecessary to disclose) that payment to tapedars of a liberal lapo, is encouraged by the Mukhtyarkars, for rasai to officers and their establishments being an accepted thing, what the Mukhtyarkars want is work and smooth work, and smooth work is only possible when the wheels are well greased.

9. The abolition of rasai will lead to the reduction of lapo, to some extent, but the surest way of reducing if not altogether abolishing lapo is to deprive the tapedar of the power of receiving assessment from khatedars. The assessment should be paid directly into the hands of the mukhtyarkar and he should be at the head-quarters for all the ten days reserved for payment of assessment.

10. Another way of stopping the payment of lapo is to curtail the tapedar's power to report remindars for petty revenue offences. The Mukhtiarkars are usually bnrdened with too much work. They can not look into everything themselves. They have therefore to take on trust many things from the tapedars. Either they should have their work lightened or the number of the petty offences should be diminished. To root out corruption is not easy but the opportunities to earn it should be minimized. To cut jungle from wasteland, to cut trees from the zamindari karias, to dig for bricks in the occupied land, to let out superfluous water, which is called waste, should not be reported against. In graver matters, the mukhtyarkars should not take things on trust, but investigate on site personally. In that way alone, will lapo die out quickly.

11. So far clher is concerned, it would be necessary to employ it to close breaches in canals, in which case it should be paid for, for 9/10th of the revenue is credited to irrigation but for every other purpose it ought not to be resorted to. To repair roads, to spread the grass, to pitch tents, to beat the shikar and to do other menial work at the officer's camp, is not the duty of any free man. Why these relics of the days of slavery should survive in Sind under British Government is extremely inexplicable. In the Presidency proper such a thing as free labour and free supplies are not known. Yet with the same revenue, police and other laws as in the Presidency, Sind should be the nursery of these barbaric customs, is a matter of considerable deploration. I have often wondered why Englishmen with free ideas and liberal instincts should fall victims to those repugnant ways, and I think the British Officers owe it to their own good name to put down with a strong hand the use of free labour and free supplies. I have no wish to preach a sermon to this committee. I only mention it, because I have actually found it laid down in circulars issued from responsible quarters that Sind people are very hospitable and they feel it keenly if their hospitality is refused. Those responsible for this statement either are utterly ignorant of the feelings of the people, inspite of their long stay in the country, or they want some kind of excuse to defend the indefensible. In any case, a genuine and an earnest effort is neccssary to put a stop to evils which smack more of slavery than of hospitality. The age of contract has replaced the age of status everywhere else. Let it be so in Sind too.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SANTDAS.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Santdas Mangharam.

2. Occupation. — 2. Pleader.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. — 3. Rs. 216 income tax.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. In common parlance the word rasai has come to mean supplying provisions to touring officials with or without cost.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. I have no personal experience of rasai making. I have however heard a good deal from friends and clients during the 16 years of my practice as a pleader. I have also seen something of the system of rasai making that prevails in Sind, while visiting the camps of touring officials both English and Indian.

10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables?

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

10, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25.—The provisions and other articles that officials require and get at their camps are:—(1) grass; (2) fuel; (3) milk; (4) eggs; (5) butter; (6) fowls; (7) meat, often goat's meat; (8) grains; (9) ice; (10) dry fruit and fresh fruit which often takes the shape of dalis; (11) cots; (12) fodder; (13) earthen jars for subordinates and menials; (14) vegetables. Besides these all camp arrangements have to be made viz., pitching of tents, making stables, setting up temporary landhis for menials, and subordinate staff also, if houses not available.

The above articles are mostly required for the superior officials. Their staff also gets a share of the above supplies but besides that ghee is provided for the subordinate officials; as a rule the head clerk and head munshi to the touring officer is given a bottle of brandy or whisky for each manzal and one bottle is supplied for the other subordinates. Their cooks and servants as well as the menials of the officer get a bottle of Sindhi liquor.

On one camp in Jati taluka, the zamindar on my arrival brought an extra bottle of brandy, which I returned being a total abstainer, and it was quietly appropriated by the head munshi who was supposed to be my host, though all the provisions were being supplied by the zamindar.

If on these camps any guests arrive, whether for the mukhtiarkar or for the higher officials, the zamindar or tapedar in charge of the rasai arrangements is expected to supply all provisions on the same lavish scale and in most cases he gets no money extra for the same while the bill is settled.

So far as my knowledge goes the menials and staff pay nothing for their provisions and supplies. On the contrary the menials get bakshis which varies with the degree of influence which a particular menial especially the butler is supposed to have on his master. In many cases the butler is paid special bakhshis, solely with the object of securing his good will so that he may not spoil his master's dinner or delay his meals and then throw the blame on the rasai maker and thus mar his prospects or his good name as a capable subordinate.

The staff also get cash payments per each camp or from individual zamindar or tapedar which are given in the form of tips to save them from petty annoyance of the office clerks as well as to secure their good will in white washing their mistakes of commission and ommission.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I am distinctly against any zamindar or tapedar being required to make rasai. An independent contractor should be appointed to supply provisions.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Contractors could be had for supplying provisions on a fair remuneration.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. My objections to rasai are these —

(1) The English officials in whose name large quantities are taken very often never require these supplies and the menials get an opportunity to extort money.

(2) The zamindars and haris are fleeced most mercilessly.

(3) It serves as a pretence to the lower subordinates to get bribes. My opinion is that each touring officer should keep a special servant who should go one day in advance and make purchases of the necessary articles. If he has to camp in a small village he should take provisions for a week or so from a large village.

In short every official should feel that he must manage to make his own arrangements and should not expect Government to arrange for his food, &c. Cots should be supplied for the camp by the tapedar as they can not be had easily. Everything else should be purchased by the officer through his own servant or khalasi.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. The word lapo ordinarily means cash rent levied by a land owner from his tenant but it has come to signify the illegal exaction of tapedars from the zamindars in his tapa.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. I have heard the word lapo used only in connection with the unauthorized dues levied by tapedars. I have not heard of lapo being levied in the public works, police and forest departments, though the subordinate officials in each department have a more or less systematized form of unauthorized dues.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. The usual form of levying lapo by the tapedar is so much per each cultivated number, often Re. 1 per survey number.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

42 and 43. The tapedar takes lapo ostensibly because he has to make rasai.

As a rule his pay is never handed over to him. It is kept in the taluka office for what they call head quarter rasai fund. This fund is utilized when the Commissioner, Collector or Assistant Collector or other superior officers of the judicial and other departments happens to visit the taluka head quarters. This fund is also used for supplying luxuries and comforts to the Mukhtiarkar and head munshi which they can ill-afford to indulge in otherwise.

The tapedar finding his pay confiscated falls back on the zamindar for his lapo. He levies a separate exaction which is generally annas 8 per each cultivated number for rasai in his beat.

The abdars and daroghas also levy some dues which I have not heard styled as lapo but they levy them regularly and make rasai therefrom. The same is true of the forest department. I have not heard of a systematic levy of exactions by the police. They have simply to ask what they want for rasai and it is supplied forthwith irrespective of the cost by the local zamindars. I have however heard of police officers being regularly tipped to earn their good will in running in inconvenient neighbours as badmashes or getting chairs, lungis and perwanas. But that has as a rule nothing to do with rasai.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. The lapo compensates the tapedar for his loss of pay as stated above and also serves as a bribe to to him to show undue favours. The zamindar pays separate dues for rasai and often when that does not suffice he pays in lump sums. Besides that he pays bakshis from the office clerks down to the lowest menial.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. So long as the tapedar and the lower subordinates in the forest and police departments enjoy the wide powers that they now enjoy, the system of lapo will prevail though it may change its name and form. If however rasai is abolished then lapo will not be levied as a matter of right and then selfish and dishonest people alone will give tips, but honest people will be saved and lapo as lapo will disappear. It will also be necessary in that case to increase the scale of tapedar's pay. That might entail extra expense on the Government, but it is an open secret that in some cases tapedars for the purpose of earning their lapo show favours to zamindars at the cost of Government revenue.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. The word chher means unpaid labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. This labour is requisitioned for the following purposes:—

(1) To prepare camps for touring officials, pitch their tents, cut the jungle and wild growth round about camping grounds and do all kind of menial work in the camps of touring officials.

(2) To repair the roads along which touring officials are likely to travel.

(3) To repair breaches to canal and build bunds in heavy inundation seasons.

(4) To help in shikars as beaters, &c.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. I have not heard of any special concession being made to a hari because he is expected to make chher.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. The chheras get no pay or wages. They usually get meals. In some cases individual official has given them bakshis which however is not adequate.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. The chheras do this work out of fear. It is only in heavy floods that they work willingly to save their fields from ruin. Otherwise they are simply pressed in service.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. In my opinion labour in the mofusil can mostly be supplied from the haris and gangs should be regularly supplied by zamindars and the scale of their pay should be fixed by Government.

Finally I want to bring the facts of a case in the Jamesabad Taluka to the notice of the Commissioners. After the circular of 1914, some zamindars refused to make rasai according to the old system. The revenue authorities had appointed individual zamindars to make rasai for each local area, but it seems the engineering department had made no such arrangements. The zamindars when called upon to make rasai refused to do so, relying upon the Commissioner's Circular.

The sub-divisional officer made a report officially that the zamindars of that deh were very bad as they refused to make camping arrangements for superior officers of the engineering department. Soon after one of his subordinates filed two cases against about 6 zamindars. The cases were:—

Kamal khan Vs. Meer khan and others.

Kamal khan Vs. Ahmedkhan and others.

My client's instructions were that the cases were the outcome of their refusal to make rasai and they apprehended that the Magistrate at Jamesabad might be influenced by the sub-divisional officer so they applied for transfer of the cases to the District Magistrate. The latter however assured them personally that justice would be done and they need have no apprehensions. After trial the accused were discharged. My clients told me on more occasions than one that if they had followed the old practice they would have hardly spent Rs. 20 or 25 for their share of the rasai but now they had spent about Rs. 300, were only too anxious to save their skins and for the future they would prefer to make rasai than be dragged in criminal courts.

These cases were completed, I believe, in October 1915, and were instituted after the circular of 1914. The letter of the sub-divisional officer above referred to is exhibited in the case. The records of the above cases might be sent for from the courts of the first class magistrate Jamesabad.

After writing the above, I was taking instructions from a client in a case fixed for 30th before the first class Sub Judges Hyderabad. My client Mr. Kundanmal had worked as an agent of Mir Sher Mahomed and he had paid some monies as lapo to tapedars, abdars, &c. The same are entered in a memo signed by the agent Kundanmal and the Mir's Munshi Shafi Mahomed. The moneys were paid for 1917-1918. For convenience sake I translate the same and also attach a copy. The original is in my possession which if necessary I am ready to produce before the Commissioner.

TRANSLATION OF THE MEMO.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Canal (i.e. canal assistant) for kharif	20	0	0
Darogha kharif	5	0	0
Abdar Digri	5	0	0
Tapedar Digri	5	0	0
Tapedar Pubun	50	0	0
Supervising tapedar	40	0	0
Abdar Pubun kharif 90, last year 10	100	0	0
Kotar and servants of tapedar and supervising tapedar ...	5	0	0

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHIMANDAS.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Mr. Chimandas.
2. Appointment.	2. Inspector of Police, Hala Circle.
3. Headquarters.	3. Hyderabad.
4. Length of service.	4. 11 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. Whole service in Sind, (Sukkur, Thar and Parkar and Hyderabad Districts and Sind Railway Police).

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour?	6. Whole Hala Division.
7. What is the period of your tour?	7. All the year round.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour?	8. One servant.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour?	9. One munshi and one orderly.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?	10 & 11. All unperishable articles—rice, flour, dal, potatoes, spices etc., vegetables, meat, milk, fish, butter, fire-wood and grass.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?	
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour?	12. Bedding, utensils and clothes.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps?	13. Four cots, half a dozen jars.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?	15. Police stations and outposts accommodate us.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. Stables are also attached to the Police buildings.
17. What records do you take on tour?	17. Current correspondence papers and registers.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?	18. No extra arrangements are made.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. None in my charge.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. Local board authority is responsible.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?	22. No.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?	23. I have got my two horses, munshi and orderly use shutur sowar camel.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?	24. Police sowars are used for the conveyance of post.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?	25. All police stations and outposts.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?	27. All in villages.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?	29. There are District and Public Works Department bungalows in certain places which are very seldom used.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. I do not know.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Making arrangements for the superior officers' camp.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

32 & 33. 1 lb meat, 2 seers milk, ¼ lb butter, ½ lb vegetable, grass and firewood.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Present prices are: wheat 6 seers, rice 4 seers, milk one to 2 annas per seer, butter 12 annas per seer, bajri 6½ seers, fire wood 5 annas per maund out of Hyderabad.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Practically nil.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. Daily cost of the requirements of myself is 12 annas, and of the servants and others is 5 annas each.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. From shopkeepers the articles are purchased but nothing is paid for milk, grass, fire-wood and mutton.

38. How are they paid for?

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

38—39. Paid personally to the banias.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. Actual expenses come always under the estimated cost.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. No remark.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. There is no such fund in the Police Department.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

43 to 46.—No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. I know nothing about this circular as I was in those days in Sind Railways and Sind C. I. D.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. No. I cannot say.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. No, as my tour is not regular.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. I do not remember.

51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. No.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. I cannot say.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. I have experienced no difficulty.

Lapo.

54—65. I know nothing about this, as this does not concern the Police Department and there is no lapo in Police Department.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Certain number of men supplied for pitching tents etc.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Villagers.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Pitching tents etc.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Cannot say.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?

70. No.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?

73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

71—74. I cannot say.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. I do not require.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

78. Whence do you obtain them?

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

76 to 79. None.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase, while on tour, of your own private and official establishments?

80 & 81. Not concerned.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. I do not shoot, hence I do not require labour.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

83 & 84. No.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Not concerned.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?

86—91. Cannot say.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. Cannot suggest as this does not concern with the Police Department.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. RAMCHAND BIJASING.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Ramchand Bijasing Kirpalani.
2. Appointment.	2. Sub-engineer and sub-divisonal officer.
3. Headquarters.	3. Badin.
4. Length of service.	4. 21 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 21 years experience in irrigation of Sind P. W. D.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour?	6. About a thousand square miles.
7. What is the period of your tour?	7. Almost all the year round.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour?	8. One cook.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour?	9. One clerk, one peon, two khalasis and one post runner.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?	10. I take all my supplies with me except fuel; my cook eats from my food; my clerk also takes his supplies while my peon and khalasis buy flour and rice from the bazar at each camp.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?	11. I require fuel at each camp always and ½ a pound of milk for tea in winter only while my establishment require both milk and fuel daily.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour?	12. Private furniture—1 table, 1 chair, 1 teapoy and 2 camel trunks. Official furniture—2 tables, 3 chairs, 2 stools, 2 carpets and 3 record boxes.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps?	13. One cot and 2 jars—nothing else.
14. What tents do you take on tour?	14. One tent and 2 rowties.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?	15. They have got Government quarters at usual camps. When they have none such, rowties are pitched or existing huts of zamindars are used.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. Government stables exist at most of my camps; where no such exist, existing kacha stables of zamindars are used.
17. What records do you take on tour?	17. Generally current record of the year.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?	18. There are official quarters built by Government at the usual camps. Where none such exist, the tent and rowties are used.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?	19. Not more than two men.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. No roads in my charge.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. Local board; for annual repairs paid labour is employed but for occasional repairs zamindari cher.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camp?	22. No.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?	23. Camels for 8 months from November to June.

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?

24. I have got 1 tapali—very often this one man is is not sufficient and canal establishment is employed.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. Talhar, Suani, Lunwari, Khodhan, Triple-Sluice and Tando Bago.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. The chowkidars do this.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. All of them.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. To none at present.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. All of them.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. One chowkidar.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. Compliance with wants.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. 10 seers of fuel and ½ lb. milk (in winter only).

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. The average daily requirement of my private establishment is 1 lb. of milk and of official establishment is 6 lbs. of milk and 10 seers of fuel.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Eggs sell for ½ to 1 anna each, fowls for 4 to 6 annas, sheep (dumba) 8 rupees to 15 rupees, milk for 1 to 2 annas per seer, butter for 1 rupee a seer, bajri for 6 rupees a maund, rice for 6 rupees a maund and fuel for 2 annas a load. There is no rate for fuel outside towns nor is milk sold in most of the small villages.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Yes, for milk only if it is available for sale.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. About 6 annas if milk is paid for, otherwise nil.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Usually no expenditure is incurred; the canal muccadums bring milk from maldars and the fuel from canal trees.

38. How are they paid for?

38. If perchance money is paid for milk the daroga and muccadams pay it.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. Only milk is required for my camp and nothing is paid for it.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. I require nothing from the daroga or the muccadum and therefore pay them nothing.

41. If it is greater, by whom the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. Haris or zamindars have nothing to do with us.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. There is no rasai fund with the P. W. D. men.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. No. Every bungalow has got cots; the jars also are generally present. If however any new ones are required they are not paid for.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

44—46. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. The rules of 1914 are practically a dead letter. No zamindar provides the supplies required by touring officers of the P. W. D. The darogas and muccadums have to do it.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. Yes. The zamindars should have no hand in the rasai at all. Yes it would be possible to find an independent contractor for large villages provided the rates are sufficiently remunerative to them and the supplies for all officers' camps are obtained from them; perhaps Government help would be necessary to compensate them.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. No, I do not give intimation as there is no contractor or zamindar who is deputed to provide supplies to me.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. The rules of 1914 are impracticable.

51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. No.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. I know the orders on the subject and I have experienced no difficulty in carrying them out.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. By lapo I understand a tax; but in Sindh, it is meant to be an illegal tax of certain officials.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. I know of one and that is in cash.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. It is levied on zamindars by tapedars and some where by darogas in order to overlook their small omissions and irregularities.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. It is levied in cash annually at an average of 1 rupee per each survey number by tapedars and about same rate for each karia by darogas. The lapo of darogas is however not common everywhere or with every daroga.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. About the whole lapo of darogas is utilized in rasai. Some times they have to spend more.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. There is no rasai fund with the P. W. D, men, each daroga manages his own hut.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. There is no rasai fund. Nobody knows what a daroga earns. There is no fixed lapo. He meets the money presents of the private and official establishments of touring officers from his pocket. He makes the canal muccadums share the cost of all rasai with him. The average expenditure of each daroga and his muccadams in a year is about rupees 100.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. There is no lapo for particular favours for which separate bribes are received.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. There is no such examination of official records nor is there such lapo in P. W. D.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. Not at all.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. The lapo in P. W. D. is more or less a quiet harmless affairs. Even I did not know of it until only a few years ago. It is absent in many places and no complaints whatsoever are received on account of it.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. This seems to refer to the lapo of tapedars.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Chher means a number of men supplied for a certain work for a short time.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Mostly haris.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. They are required for irrigational works and also for help in the officers' camps and their shikar.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. No, but they are under the thumb of their zamindars.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. P. W. D. pay their zamindars for the irrigational work done by their cherras at very fair and resonable rates but they get nothing for work in camps. Officers sometimes give them bakhshish for shikar help.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Could be had on previous intimation and payment in advance mostly.

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. There are a few beldars to look after the canals.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. I do not know how they are bound at all.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. No.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. I do not require any labour on tour personally.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

76 & 77. None.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. If I want more men than my personal establishment, my canal muccadams and beldars are called.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. No.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai contractor?

80. Each labourer would want not less than 6 to 7 annas a day; yes, if he is paid 8 annas for each.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. Yes certainly.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. I do not shoot but for Executive and Superintending Engineers darogas obtain chher.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. The officers pay them a few rupees. No, not at all. They are on the contrary glad.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. No, perhaps sometimes food only once.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. No roads are in my charge.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. That depends on the nature and importance of the breach or flood. Sometimes even 500 men are necessary.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. Yes, by Government.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. The employment of chheras on floods and breaches may at times be interfering with cultivation but if the area or flood is not timely stopped the whole crop would be lost.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

90. That is for the local board.

91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?

91. No.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

92. It might be suppressed for help obtained from them in the officers' camp and for their shikar but should not be stopped for help required for irrigational works.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. METHARAM.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Metharam D. J.
2. Appointment.	2. Divisional Forest Officer, Hyderabad.
3. Headquarters.	3. Hyderabad.
4. Length of service.	4. 30 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. 25 years in Sind out of which 14 years as Range Forest Officer and 11 years as Divisional Forest Officer.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour?	6. 232 square miles.
7. What is the period of your tour?	7. 7 months from November to the end of May.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour?	8. Two.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour?	9. Two clerks and three peons.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?	10. I take all my supplies such as wheat, rice, spices, whisky, soda, etc., with me, and clerks and peons take all the supplies from the village bania.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?	11. I require butter, mutton, firewood and jars and they require all the things.
12. What private and official furnifurniture do you take on tour?	12. 11 private boxes including small ones, 1 camp table, 2 easy chairs, 1 cot, 2 chairs and 1 teapoy. Office furniture—4 camp tables, 6 chairs, 7 boxes and 1 typewriter.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps?	13. Only 4 water jars.
14. What tents do you take on tour?	14. 3 tents, 2 servant pals and 1 necessary tent.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?	15. My private servants stop in the pal and office peons in the other pal provided by Government. As regards office establishment they stop in the out-houses in the bungalow; where are no such bungalows they stop in the forest guards' landhis.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. I keep no horse.
17. What records do you take on tour?	17. One year's general correspondence record and few other important files from past year's records.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?	18. I have got my office tent in which office work is done.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?	19. On the first day when the tents are to be pitched, about 10 maldars for few hours; then only 2 maldars for bringing water and fuel.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. I have got no roads in my charge, I travel along the public roads.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. Revenue Department.
22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?	22. None.
23. What are your means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?	23. I engage camels for the whole season.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?	24. Post from Hyderabad headquarters comes to local post offices and then it is brought by forest guards.

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?

25. Miani, Matiari, Khebrani, Khanote, Nurketi, Mad, Mari, Kot Dhigano, Laki, Manjhand, Gopang, Unarpur, Railo Bada and Petaro.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. There are bungalows at all the camps except Nurketi, Kot Dhigano, Gopang and Railo Bada. Maldars help the forest guards in clearing the camping grounds for the time being. There are no permanent camping grounds.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. Almost all are in practical reach of the village with bania shop.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. Miani.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. Miani, Matiari, Khanote, Khebrani, Mari, Laki, Manjhand, Unarpur and Petaro.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. Public Works Department and Local Board maintain the permanent establishment for their bungalows. The forest bungalows are in charge of the forest guards of the beat.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. The term rasai means making arrangements for officers and their establishment at camps on payment.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. Half a seer of mutton, half a seer of milk, half a seer butter, firewood and jars.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. My cook takes meals from my kitchen and camelmen makes his own arrangements. Office establishments sends for everything from bania except mutton, milk and firewood. Milk for the establishment about 10 seers, mutton 2 seers and firewood about 2 camel loads.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Wheat 8 seers per rupee, rice 6 seers per rupee, bajri 10 seers per rupee, eggs 3 pies per egg, fowl 4 to 6 annas per each, sheep from Rs. 3 to 4, milk from 1 anna to 1 anna 3 pies per seer, firewood from 2 annas to 4 annas per maund.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. In the forests there is no market value for milk and firewood.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. When all requirements are purchased from bania direct and paid for, the average cost for feeding the maldars who help the forest guards will be about Rs. 2 per day.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. They are collected by forest guards and the sub-ranger supplies at the camps.

38. How are they paid for?

38. For butter, meat, fowls, eggs, the bill is prepared by the sub-ranger which is duly paid.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. The actual payments made by the officers are fair. The cost of feeding the maldars, &c., is an extra charge on the subordinates.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. This department has nothing to do with the zamindars and tapedars.

The cost of feeding the maldars is again taken in some form or the other.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. There is no rasai fund.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. When jars are returned back nothing is paid for them. Besides that, potters have got certain concessions in the forests.

41. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

44. Vegetables required by me can be had from any garden in the mofusil.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without deriment to the public service?

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

45 and 46. Impracticable.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. Zamindars have nothing to do with this department.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. In accordance with the rules of 1914, zamindars refuse to supply the articles to the officers of this department as they have nothing to do with the officers of the forest department.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. I have been giving timely notices but none comes at the camp as the camps of the officers of this department are mostly near the forests and are not at those places where officers of revenue department and other departments stop.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. Zamindars refuse to arrange forest officers' camps.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. Yes, but not from zamindars.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. From Rs. 5 to 10.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. If I refuse to take dali from the man who brings it he thinks himself insulted.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. There is no lapo system in this department. There are other ways of exactions, but as no complaint comes to officers in the authority they are helpless.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. I do not know anything of lapo.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Same as above.

57. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. There is no cultivation in forests except few acres given on agriculture-cum-forestry system for reboising the blanks.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. There is no lapo system in this department.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. There is no regular rasai fund in this department.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. No lapo is taken.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

61—64. There is no lapo system.

65 Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the land-revenue code?

65. None.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Free labour which is supplied to this department in return for the concessions given to the maldars in the way of collecting honey, gum, kinro, bones, firewood, timber for constructing cattle sheds, permission for stopping in the forests as a temporary measure. Besides that 20 per cent. of cattle is allowed free grazing in the forests to those who give help.

67. Who are the "Chheras"?

67. Maldars.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Clearing of compartment lines, repairing boundary lines, boundary pillars, extinguishing fires, cutting fire lines, putting up new fences, repairing old ones and helping the forest subordinates in other minor works.

69. Do the "Chheras" hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Maldars are given concession with clear understanding that they are to help the department.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. They get in kind from Government.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Paid labour is available in the forests but the maldars are unwilling to receive payment and to forego so many concessions enjoyed by them in the forests.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. They are not bound with this department.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. For pitching tents, bringing water and firewood.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. Two.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. About 8 more.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. From maldars.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. They are given certain concessions in the forests.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. The labour which is required for pitching tents is only for 2 or 3 hours and 2 labourers required for bringing firewood can be had from the contractor and the probable cost of these men will be about Rs. 100 in the season.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?

81. Yes except tent pitching.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?

83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ?

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?

82—84. I do not shikar at all.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

85. Cannot say anything.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ?

86. Do not know anything.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?

87. Cannot say anything.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?

88—90. Do not know anything.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

92. If the maldars are paid for the works they do and deprived of concessions they will not agree.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HAROOMAL RAMCHAND.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. R. B. Harumal Ramchand Jhangiani.
2. Appointment.	2. Temporary Engineer.
3. Headquarters.	3. Hyderabad.
4. Length of service.	4. Forty-one years and three months.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind.	5. Forty-one years and whole time in Sind.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour?	6. About 500 square miles.
7. What is the period of your tour?	7. All the year.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour?	8. Two servants and two camelmen.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour?	9. One clerk, three pattawallas and two camelmen.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?	10. I take all supplies for me, and office establishment purchase in the district.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?	11. Milk, mutton, fish, vegetables, &c., which can be obtained at each camp. No eggs and fowls.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour?	12. Private—1 cot, 3 teapoys, 2 boxes, 3 deck chairs. Official—6 pieces camp tables, 2 trunks, 1 type box, 1 teapoy, 4 chairs.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars, or other furniture at your various camps?	13. One cot for clerk; other establishment use cots if available. I use copper vessels and some jars are purchased as necessary; they are carried from camp to camp.
14. What tents do you take on tour?	14. Two tents and two rowties.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?	15. All in tents and rowties.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?	16. At present I have no horse.
17. What records do you take on tour?	17. Two camel trunks.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?	18. In tents.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?	19. No labour required, canal establishment assisting.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?	20. No roads are in my charge.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?	21. Local Boards.
22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps?	22. None.
23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters?	23. Two riding camels and seven baggage camels. Camels during 8 months of fair season. A horse, a riding camel and a cart during monsoon are necessary.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?	24. Post-runner and the canal establishment are absolutely necessary.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?	25. Budhani, Hatri, Khatian Station, Tando Jam, Tando Kaisar, Ghotana, Sheikh Bhirkio, Tando Fazul, Khatar and Husri.

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?

26. Levelled grounds are generally met with; if not my establishment assisted by canal establishment prepare them.

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?

27. All of the above places.

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

28. Hatri, Tando Jam, Tando Kaisar, Kathar and Husri.

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

29. Forest bungalow at Miani near Hatri and inspection bungalow at Tando Kaisar.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. Garden mali and his assistants.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. I understand rasai means providing provisions, chher without payment or nominal payment.

32. What are the average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. A seer of milk; grass if I had a horse and fuel.

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. Flour, rice, tea, sugar, potatoes, spices I carry about, others my tapali brings from Hyderabad; mostly mutton and fish I purchase wherever available. A seer of flour or rice, mutton a pao, a chatak of ghee, some spices, fish in small quantity if obtainable per each member of establishments.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Wheat, flour and rice at 5 seers a rupee, ghee at 3 pao a rupee, eggs and fowls I do not require, milk at about 2 annas a seer, bajri and jowari stalks at 2 to 3 annas a bundle, firewood free from canal banks. Eggs at 2 pice each, fowls 10 to 12 annas each.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Yes, but at cheaper rates.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. Average requirements under Rs. 2,

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. Directly my private and official establishments arrange for them.

38. How are they paid for?

38. By cash in advance.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers, and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?

39. I see that money is paid and articles obtained.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. Actual payment is made and no estimated cost which varies day by day.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

41. Haris, tapedars, mukhtiarkars have nothing to do with my supplies.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?

42. There is no rasai fund at all, and maintained by none of my establishment.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture equisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. I pay for water jars if required. I carry my own cot and other furniture and thus requisition none and order for building no stables.

44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?

44. I pay for vegetables wherever available, mostly I get from headquarters station. There are no local fund gardens except at headquarters where market is the place for purchase.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?

45. I do not see.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

46. My duties are such that I cannot suggest.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. The rules of 1914 are attended to so far as practicable. Tapedars and zamindars have nothing to do with any arrangement concerning me.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. No independent contractors can conduct our business as shifting is made suddenly and no programme of movements could be settled.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. I have no contractors or zamindars to whom any instructions have to be given.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. None.

51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. Dhalis of vegetables and fruits I discourage, but occasionally I receive such from owners of gardens who urge me to accept them. Subordinate officials do not supply them, but the zamindar Mir Yar Mahomed occasionally sends some game which is given away to those who require.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?

52. Rs. 3 to 4 throughout the year round.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. Orders of Government are to accept complimentary flowers, vegetables in small quantities which however are discouraged and I have no difficulty in carrying out these orders.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Lapo I take as a collection for some connivance on some wrong doings and for systematic collections for rasai, etc.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. Per survey numbers or per wheel working.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Revenue tapedars and canal establishment for filling their pockets and for occasionally spending on rasai.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. Systematic lapo is levied by revenue subordinates and the canal establishment must be getting per wheel, karia etc., most irregularly at sweet wish of the cultivators.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. There is no rasai fund.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. There is no manager.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. Lapo system is heard of with the Revenue tapedars and there is no regular syetematic lapo in the canal department. It has no bearing with the rasai fund. Tip money is given to office establishment averaging Rs. 5-0-0 in a beat of a darogah covering about 100 Sq. Miles and not at each camp.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. It is exacted for particular favors in other departments. In the Irrigation Department for connivance at heaping up of the cleared earth of mouths of karias and khuadas there and then in canal limits and for increasing and decreasing kacha mouths of karias.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. That is for the revenue, police and forest departments. There is nothing such in the Irrigation Department.

63. Has the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. I am afraid not.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. I have none.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. The powers of tapedars to be curtailed as there are instances of survey Nos. irrigated by charkhi classed as aided by flow; the entries are made in records by themselves. A fraction of ghunta of land ploughed and possibly seeds planted is recorded as cultivated number, and many such others which the hard worked mukhtiarkar can not possbily enquire into.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Collection of labour for work.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Mostly haris.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Mostly for closing breaches in canal banks in Irrigation Department and for repairing roads and camps in the Revenue Department.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Yes as far as I understand.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?

70. When employed they receive victuals for food and even cash at times from zamindars or from officials of Government.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. About seven months in a year from November to May paid labour is available and in the period June to October it is scantily available at high wages and practically not generally.

72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?

72. Not considerable staff of beldars but a few are maintained temporarily by Government. Local Boards have their own.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. In their own interest zamindars have to supply labour in closing breaches.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. I do not know of the Dekhan and I do not see any village servant rendering any service to Government here in Sind.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. I require no labour on tour except for works which I get on payment.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. I require no labourers in camp.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?

77. I do not require any, my canal establishment assisting my private and official establishments.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. I do not require them.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. If I call them I pay them; zamindars have nothing to do.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. I have no reliance on the rasai contractors. If at all they are employed their demands will be extraordinary.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. I think so.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. I do not shikar.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. I have no experience.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. I do not know.

85. What labour if any is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Regular establishment employed by local boards with annual or special repairs are to keep roads in fair conditions.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officers?

86. I think they are given either in cash or in kind so far I have known.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

87. Mohanas and workmen if obtained quickly in large number will lead to closing breaches in canal banks quickly enough to prevent damage to cultivated lands and villages in the interest of all concerned.

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

88. Government pay daily wages for regular work or supplies food for work irregularly done in lieu of wages for regular labour.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

89. Only temporarily; usually all haris do not come as chheras to work; the work of cultivation goes on.

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?

90. Local Boards beldars employed by the Revenue Department only; their employment elsewhere must be interfering with their duties.

91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?

91. No, I have none.

92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

92. I am afraid it can not be suppressed wholly or even partly in an emergency of closing breaches and the like when no free labour can be readily got.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MATHRADAS RAMCHAND.

Preliminary.

1. Name.	1. Mathradas Ramchand.
2. Occupation.	2. Pleader and zamindar.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue.	3. About 600 acres, land revenue about Rs. 800 a year according to the quantity of land cultivated. Income-tax of the firm of which I am a member about Rs. 3,000 and personally Rs. 65.
4. Residence.	4. Hyderabad, Sind.
5. Public employment, if any such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate.	5. A member of the District Local Board, Hyderabad.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?	6. Free supply of necessaries, comforts and luxuries of life or on payment of very inadequate consideration.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?	7. I have never made rasai myself, but I have heard and seen much of it during the last 30 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make rasai.	8. None.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?	9. The Commissiener-in-Sind. The Collector of Hyderabad. The Deputy Collectors or the Assistant Collectors of the Hyderabad District.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?	10. They require, milk, eggs, butter, fuel, mutton, cots, fruit, vegetables, and provisions of all kinds.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?	11. The tapedar supplies with the help of the zemindars of the deh in which officers are encamped all the articles mentioned in this question.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?	12 & 13.—No personal knowledge.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?	
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?	14. Yes.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?	15. No personal knowledge.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?	16. I don't know.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?	17. They are all supplied by the same agency.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	18. The tapedar keeps the rasai. book in which the daily cost of all supplies is entered.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?	19. The same answer as to question 17.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?	20. I can't say.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?	21. The tapedar has to provide all the articles in question No. 21.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?	22. I can't say.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?	23. I can't say.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. Although I don't make rasai myself I have to give a share of the rasai expenses to the tapedar whenever any officer camps in the deh in which I have got lands, from Rs. 15 to 30 each time.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. If the clerk have got no tents and routees of their own, landhis are provided for them.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. Tapedars make the landhis.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. I don't know.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. I can't say.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Only for the mukhtiarkars and that too is made by the tapedars.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. As said above I make a contribution to the tapedar.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. On the average from Rs. 20 to 25.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. I don't make it myself but is done by the tapedar.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. No payment.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. Contractors independent of tapedars and zemindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Yes for talukas or sub-divisions.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Rasai corrupts the tapedars who harass the zemindars and knock out from them more than they spend and share their receipts with the head munshis of Collectors, Assistant Collectors, Mukhtiarkars to ingratiate themselves with them. The receipt of rasai should be met with condign punishment. It should be made obligatory upon the officers to give contracts for supplies to officers and their establishment on tour.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I don't present any dhalis.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes, must be done.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Payment by zamindars to tapedars of money for saving oneself from molestation at his hands.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There is only form which I know, and that is to make payments to the tapedar at the time of paying assessment or whenever tapedar does any work, i.e., when endorsing any transfer application or inspecting boundary marks or dividing any S. No. This is in the Revenue Department. In the Public Works Department the darogha charges something to each owner of a water wheel.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Tapedar charges Re. 1 per each cultivated No. and since 1914 he has doubled his fee in the case of poor landholders.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Tapedar charges lapo to zamindars who want to save themselves from heavier loss caused to them by his false reports.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Lapo is taken by tapedar for causing no loss to zamindar and rasai is given by zamindar in addition.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. I make no presents to private or official establishment of any office.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. I don't know.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. People don't pay lapo for getting any favours from tapedar, but as said above to save their skin from his undue harassment.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. In this part of the country the practice is to pay it per cultivated No.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. About Rs. 50 a year.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the muhktiarkars?

50. No, the assessment is mostly paid to tapedar.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Payment of lapo to tapedars can only be stopped by curtailing powers of tapedars and introducing uniformity of assessment on various kinds of cultivation.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. I understand by the term chher, unpaid and compulsory labour for various purposes as repairing roads, pitching tents and doing menial work for officers and their establishment and closing breaches of canals as well.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Poor haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. As shown in reply to question No. 52.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. No, they pay their rent or batai to zamindars and in addition they obey the zamindars whenever required by them and for whatever purposes.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? Or from the officers of Government?

56. No remuneration is paid to them.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. I can't say as I have never engaged myself in this work.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. I can't say.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?	59. Probably not.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?	60. I can't say.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?	61. They come unwillingly.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?	62. I can't say.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?	63. Public derive no benefit.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Board ?	64. Nothing to my knowledge.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?	65. There is no fixed number.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?	66. I can't say.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?	67. Of course. Often the fields are waiting reaping for the absence of reapers engaged in chher work.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?	68. Casual paid labour is always available excepting inundation season.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of zamindars ?	69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?	70. Yes, except when sudden breaches of canals occurs.

Copy of a letter from Mathradas Ramchand, Pleader, Hyderabad, to the Secretary, Rasai, Lapo and Chher, Karachi, dated 30th April 1918.

As I am going out for the next 3 days, I will not be available for the personal examination. I therefore submit the following notes in amplification and illustration of my answers already submitted on the 27th April.

1. In continuation of my answer to question No. 38, I beg to submit that the evil of rasai could only be prohibited with the co-operation of the superior officers. If they did not require it, the lower staff would hardly demand it, nor would any body care to make rasai for them. If the superior officers are sincere to put down the rasai, it could be easily done, otherwise not.

2. In auswer to question No. 46, I submit that lapo is paid as a lesser evil than the greater loss which would otherwise accrue to the zemindars from non-payment of it. I have been paying it since 1894 under the following circumstances. Prior to that date, I did not pay any lapo. I owned 15 huri Nos. in Deh Ghangra Taluka Hyderabad. The huri lands are generally low. In the begining of the flood season, my kamdar unnecessarily artificially introduced water in one of those Nos. The tapedar having observed that fact and with intention of having his revenge upon me, noted that fact and took the head munshi of the taluka to make a similar note. Subsequently the flood rose very high and all the 15 Nos. were wholly submerged, so that the water mark could be seen on the trees about 5 feet above the ground. All of a sudden I received a bill from him to the extent of Rs. 250, on the ground that I had wasted Government water by submerging all the 15 Nos. I protested against that bill and pointed out to the mukhtiarkar that the inundation of that year was abnormally high and the surrounding villages could only be saved with great difficulty and that if water was artifically introduced in one number I should be compelled to pay assessment of that one No. only. But all my protest was of no use. I appealed to the Deputy Collector with the same result. Under these circumstances, I found that it was cheaper to pay tapedar's lapo than to incur his displeasure.

Another fact to which I would invite the committee's attention is the difficulty with which copies are secured from the records of rights. Law has made it necessary that in land suits, copies of entries from the record of rights should accompany the plaint. The power to give copies is given to tapedars and they take full advantage of it. In the first place excessive delay is caused in furnishing the copies and that obliges the public to grease tapedar's hands and he charges for that service at one Rupee for each No. Protests have been sent to the Collectors but with no result. It is high time that the public should be relieved against this exaction.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KANWALSING POHUMAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Kanwalsing Pohumal, B. Sc.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. — 3. Land Revenue about Rs. 4,000.

4. Residence. — 4. Hyderabad, Sind.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. By rasai I understand the supply of provisions to touring officers and their establishment.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. I have no experience of rasai; only once I have made rasai for Assistant Collector and twice when the Mukhtiarkar came to see my remission.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? — 34. No. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars. I prefer appointment of independent contractors. It would be possible to find contractors for talukas if they are adequately remunerated.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? — 37. No.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? — 39. Lapo is unauthorised levy which the tapedars, darogas and corresponding officers in other departments make.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? — 40. Lapo is levied in the revenue and P. W. D.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? — 41. Tapedars charge rupee one to two for each survey number in the case of small landholders and As. 8 to Re. 1 in the case of large landholders.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? — 42. Darogas get lapo per each wheel and they also levy lapo for khuhadas, &c.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? — 43. The tapedars say that they have to make rasai and therefore they claim lapo.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? — 46. If lapo is not paid, the tapedars harass zamindars, as they have done in my case. I have to pay about 2 or 3 hundred rupees more every year when I do not pay lapo. Besides I have paid repairing charges of boundary marks although my boundary marks had been put in order by my men in my presence.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars? — 50. I make payment of land revenue in the Huzur Treasury and yet the tapedars want their lapo. I am served with a notice twice almost every year, although I have always paid land revenue on due dates. Once or twice warrants have been issued against me in spite of payment on due dates.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. In the case of darogas the lapo is paid by the haris for each wheel at the rate of Rs. 2; for each new khuhada the zamindar has to pay Rs. 2 to 5 to the daroga. Lapo is paid by the zamindars when they take up clearance contract of Government canals in their own area. I was myself troubled by the darogas and since then I have given up taking up clearance of Government canals in my area. The darogas have troubled me and my haris on several occasions. They burn hedges alleging that they are kept in P. W. D. limits. They make false reports that water has been wasted and mok has been used, &c. Lapo could only be stopped by simplifying the revenue administration by doing away with the present irrigational settlement system and by adopting diffused fallow system with certain reservations. This system was in vogue in 1873, and was not properly tried and was given up, because the zamindar was allowed to relinquish land. The proper remedy is that the zamindars should be asked to pay 1/3 the full assessement of the entire holding in the case of lift cultivation, 1/2 in the case of flow lands; fallow rules which also press heavily on the zamindars will disappear (vide my note attached).

Copy of a letter from Kanwatsingh Pohumal, Zamindar, Hyderabad, to the Secretary, Rasai Committee, Hyderabad.

Sir,—With regard to the prevelence of rasai, lapo and chher and remedies necessary to eradicate these evils, we associate ourselves generally with what is contained in the three articles that appeared in the Daily Gazette and with the substance of evidence of Mr. Rothfeld, Mr. Isani, Mr. Mangharam Parumal, Moonshi Choithram, tapedar, and Mr. Wadhumal, Mukhtyarkar, Dadu and several others. But while the remedies suggested will go only a short way to reduce the evils, we consider that larger and more drastic remedies are required to bring about an appreciable improvement. The root of these evils is much deeper than is generally supposed. It lies in the complicated system of revenue and other administration, a system that puts very large powers in the hands of tapedars and other petty subordinates. It also lies in the lack of self-respect and independence among zemiindars. It would be impossible to discuss the various systems of the various departments, but we would illustrate our meaning by referring to the revenue system which affects people more intimately and more widely than the administration of other departments. Under the present irrigation settlement system with rules and regulations to meet all imaginable contingencies and with remission rules and fallow rules to boot, the zemindar is very much at the mercy of the tapedar and other subordinates. The tapedar can favour and he can also harass at his sweet will, and however just the zemindars, cause may be, he stands but little chance of getting justice once the tapedar has said his say. Even when it is a question not of opinion or inference but of patent fact capable of verification by the dullest and the laziest and even when the zemindar uses a loud trumpet to challenge the veracity of a tapedar and takes upon himself all the penal consequences of any false statements on his own part, even then I say the man on the spot generally, I might almost say always, carries the day against the zemindar. For, by the time a responsible officer can come on the spot, all trace of the actual state of things is gone. Yes, the tapedar can favour as well as harm, the zemindar and tapedars have been known to do the boldest things without fear of punishment. The tapedar can show an uncultivated number as cultivated and vice versa; he can shew a lift number as lift cum flow or a real flow number as purely lift. He can report the best boundary marks as rotten and requiring repairs by the Government contractor who charges heavy fees or he can overlook bad boundary marks and he can do many other things besides, all which are weapons in his hands to fleece the zemindar. We confess the zemindars themselves with rather real exceptions are too human to resist the temptation of obtaining favours and avoiding disfavours by greasing the palm of the tapedar.

We would therefore suggest the substitution of a simple system like the fallow diffused system of revenue which was not given a fair trial with proper safeguards. Under that system the zemindar had to pay every year a certain proportion of the full assessment whether he cultivated the land or not, the proportion depending upon the number of fallows necessary for a particular crop and a particular mode of cultivation. This system was abandoned because the zamindar contrived to cultivate the whole or a very great part in one year and then relinquished the whole for a year or two in order to escape the payment of the fixed demand, for that year or two. The remedy for this lay in placing an embargo on such relinquishment. We submit that with this safeguard and one or two others in the interests alike of Government and of the zemindar the fallow diffused system should work quite satisfactorily. For one thing it will do away with so many opportunities of favoritism and harrassment. Remission rules which by themselves give rise to some of the rasai would disappear; similarly fallow rules which are a weapon in the tapedar's hands for exacting his lapo would disappear too. Nay the necessity for maintaining the present army of tapedars would no longer exist; the assessment being fixed in the case of each holding for the period of

settlement could be easily paid into the treasury direct. The tapedar not being in existence the lapo would automatically go and the limited rasai that might perhaps be deemed necessary here and there, would be looked after by men who will not be a terror like the tapedar.

Still we are not prepared to dogmatise here about the absolute efficacy or suitability of the fallow diffused system. All we want is that the present system should be replaced by a simple one working automatically and a conference of revenue officers and zamindars' representatives would be necessary to find out what system should take the place of the present one. The demonstration of other departments will have to be similarly simplified.

The other root of the evils in questions lies, as we said, in the want of back bone among our people specially the mofussilities. And the only efficicacious sremedy for that drawback consists in a very wide or we should rather say, a universal diffusion of knowledge. Many have shrugged their shoulders at the idea of free and compulsory education being adopted in a mofussil. But it is just these mufussilities who stand in supreme need of enlightenment on a large scale. This is too obvious to need elaboration. As regards the objection that the mofussil man, conditioned as he is, will feel it as a tyranny and an oppression to have to forego the assistance of his children in his avocation we suggest that the village schools could be held for 2 or 3 hours a day only by making the curriculum very simple and that they shold be closed for vacation during the seasons of special activity such as sowing and harvesting.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HAJI KAMALDIN.

Preliminary.

1. Name. — 1. Haji Kamaldin son of Mian Lalmuhammad Mundhro.

2. Occupation. — 2. Zamindar.

3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. — 3. 700 acres of land and dwelling houses. Income-tax Rs. 28, Land Revenue about Rs. 2,000.

4. Residence. — 4. Badin, taluka Badin.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? — 6. Rasai is a pretext to officials for robbing people.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? — 7. I have never made rasai as a zamindar. I had experience of it when I was in service. I watch it now also.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? — 14. Yes.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? — 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? — 35. It would be possible to find contractors both for talukas and sub-divisions.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai,' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? — 36. Subordinate officials rob people on the pretext of making rasai and it is perhaps owing to their rasai that higher officials do not inquire into their irregularities. Fuller information on this point is given in my note which accompanies this statement.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? — 38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? — 39. Lapo is a bribe. But it is restricted in its use to fixed payments levied in connection with certain matters described in detail in the accompanying note.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? — 40. This cursed lapo is levied in all departments including the Judicial, Registration, Vaccination, Salt, Local Boards and others which are not mentioned in the question.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? — 41 & 42. This is fully described in the accompanying note.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? — 43. In the Revenue Department charges for rasai are levied separately. In the Engineering Department the cost of rasai is partly paid by the contractors and partly by the daroghas out of their lapo. In other departments the cost of rasai is met out of the lapo or bribes exacted therein except for grass, firewood, milk, butter, fowls and kids.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

44 & 45. This is fully answered in the accompanying note.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. Certainly not. It is levied by force. The man who does not pay it is ruined by the subordinate officials. The higher officials are misled by the latter.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. This is fully answered in the accompanying note.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I pay nothing, in consequence of which I have been suffering losses and troubles.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. Certainly not. On the contrary it has increased as there is none to prevent it.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?

50. Certainly not. The Mukhtiarkars rather get annoyed at the refusal to pay lapo.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. I have made my humble recommendation in the accompanying note.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means men employed without remuneration.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are haris and other poor men.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. They are called on to perform work in connection with the camps of officers, to prepare roads, and to close breaches. For further particulars see the accompanying note.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Zamindars are compelled to supply men to perform such labour and they in their turn compel chheras to perform it, no matter whether these hold their lands on such conditions or not.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. They receive nothing from the officers of Government, but get food only from the zamindars.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing from the officers but get food only from the zamindars.

62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. With a view to the greater convenience of touring officers the taluka officials in order to make a name for themselves in the matter of rasai employ the chheras to supplement or to execute repairs to the Local Board roads.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?

63. Such supplementary repairs are not carried out with a view to public convenience. For the public ordinary repairs are sufficient.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?

64. They get food only from the zamindars.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

65. The number is in proportion to the work required to be done.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?

66. They get food from the zamindars. Government officials misappropriate the bulk of the wages paid by Government.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?	67. If their employment prevents them from ploughing their lands or collecting manure, etc.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?	68. It is available to any extent on payment of wages.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?	69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?	70. I consider that chher and begar ought to be abolished.

NOTE.—In the accompanying note I have given full descriptions, with illustrations, of the evils of chher, begar, rasai and bribery, suggested measures for their suppression, and shown what troubles are created for the man who does not comply with the demands of the officials.

I an educated zamindar have suffered a great deal on account of my refusal in the matter of lapo, rasai, chher and begar. The committee is aware of what lapo and rasai mean; and chher is that which the zamindars supply. Chher is none the less begar though it is supplied by the zamindars. The worst form of begar is this: in connection with the camps of officers, the peons and the police impress, leaving aside respectable men, every Mahomedan, Kolhi, etc., whom they come across, no matter whether he is a wayfarer or has a family with him.

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Rasai and lapo.

The butlers and other private servants of European officers are a veritable nuisance. They obtain their supplies including liquor at every camp. They are pampered because they can, by spoiling the supplies for their masters, enrage them against a zamindar, tapedar or taluka official to the latter's ruin. The cost of rasai in respect of the rest of the establishment such as munshis, peons etc., is much greater. Before 1900 these got their supplies from the modi whose bill was paid in the first instance by the tapedar and eventually by the zamindars. Since 1900 the system of daily allowances has come into vogue, so that there might be no evidence of the modi's khanda. The daily allowance for the clerk or munshi is a rupee a day and for the peon and private servant 8 annas a day. These allowances are paid by the tapedar daily. Apart from these allowances, they are supplied with mutton, milk, fowls, eggs, butter, grass, firewood and vegetables free of payment. This system is all the better for them. When taluka officials invite them to dinner parties the cost of which is met from the rasai collection, they get their allowances all the same. Morever peons, cooks etc., take money presents from zamindars calling on their masters and from tapedars. All the payments made by the tapedar are charged to rasai account and eventually recovered from zamindars. The mukhtiarkar is nearly always out on tour. The daily cost of rasai for him and his establishment amounts to Rs. 20 or even more. This is met by the zamindars and is apart from grass, firewood, fowls, eggs, butter, etc. and money presents to peons and cooks. The cook gets Rs. 5, the naik Rs. 2 and the peons Re. 1 each from each zamindar in addition to provisions. Cart hire for the records is paid by the zamindars at each camp and conveyance for the cook aud the munshi is also provided by the zamindars, although Government pays for the carriage of records and allows travelling allowance to the munshi and peons as also to the mukhtiarkar; zamindars have also to provide quarters for the mukhtiarkar at each camp. Woe be to a zamindar who fails to make the necessary arrangements. The sub-divisional officer (P. W. D) also tours for the most part of the year. At headquarters also rasai is made for him. The rasai for these taluka officials presses more heavily than does the rasai for European officers. Apart from this rasai fixed annual payments are made to the munshis and peons of taluka and other offices from the rasai funds provided by zamindars. Although all these payments are defrayed by zemindars, the latter cannot get any favour from the officials until he pays for them. Even the peon at the door will not let him in until he gets a tip from him.

Suggestions for suppressing rasai, etc.

1. Rasai for taluka officials is a great nuisance. Their tours therefore should be stopped. As for partal, etc., that which lies within a radius of 10 miles from the headquarters should be done by them making short journeys out of the headquarters and returning there on the same day. Only for partal which lies outside that radius should they leave ther head-quarters, care being taken to see that they do not stay at any place for more than a day. They should also abstain from obtaining conveyance and quarters from zamindars. Moreover, committes should be appointed to watch rasai. The tours of Divisional, District and Sind officers should be limited, their

camps confined to large towns and their camp establishments reduced. These officers should be in touch with members of the committees referred to above and acquaint themselves with the needs and grievances of the people. They can get their supplies either direct or through contractors in large towns. Notwithstanding that, taluka officials and tapedars will have to make rasai for their munshis on the following considerations :

1. They get help from them when any body complains against them.

2. They must have their support when they make reports calculated to injure zamindars and others who refuse to make rasai or to give bribes.

3. Their records are inspected by them.

4. They need their help in matters of leave, transfer, etc.

The tapedar's exactions.

1. Lapo at the rate of 5 to 20% ; one rupee is the minimum lapo on a survey number, whatever its assessment may be. Even fallow assessments are not free from the payment of lapo at the rate of one rupee per number. Tapedars also obtain butter, etc., and even money on land flooded by haris for the purpose of grass for their farm cattle.

3. At the number shumari the tapedar levies on account of his own rasai 4 annas per number from the smaller zamindars and a larger amount from the larger zamindars.

4. He also obtains a bag or two of grain for his horse from each zamindar at the batai. Apart from this he gets firewood, grass, butter, kids, fowls, etc., etc.

5. One rupee per number when information regarding any number is supplied.

6. From Re. 1 to Rs. 5 per number for change of entry in the record of rights.

7. Rs. 3 to 5 per number on regrants of fallow numbers and Rs. 1 to 2 per acre on grants of Government land.

8. While the price of a ryot's receipt book is one anna, the tapedar's charge for the same is 4 to 8 annas.

9. As regards the usufruct of trees, the tapedar and supervising tapadar obtain as much for themselves as is paid to Government. They create troubles for those who refuse to pay them on this scale.

10. On takavi grants 5% is paid to the tapedar and supervising tapedar in addition to sums of money paid to the head munshi, the subtreasurer and sometimes the mukhtiarkar.

11. Tapedars and supervising tapedars levy a charge for boundary marks which are to be put in order under the group system.

12. The tapedar does not dispose of any application which goes to him for report until he is bribed.

13. The tapedar gets a rupee per acre on flooded lands given out for cultivation on a year's lease. He also gets lapo on the cultivation of such lands.

14. The tapedar pays Rs. 200 to 300 towards rasai and exacts double the amount from zamindars. He also has a large quantity of supplies which remains over, which lasts him for a year.

15. If the tapedar does not get a fixed sum from an income-tax assessee he will mislead the mukhtiarkar to his prejudice.

16. The tapedar recovers from each zamindar one or two rupees each for his cook and kotar. Some mukhtiarkars also levy an annual sum of Rs. 100 to 500 from each zemindar in addition to presents etc.

18. The tapedar issues assessment bills to zamindars for larger amounts than are due from them. He then pockets the excess money by giving no receipt or by giving a fraudulent receipt. This has been done in the case of a man like me. I submit the bill in question. The entry relates to No. 344, area 12 acres and 27 ghuntas. Assessment Rs. 23-8-0. When I discovered the error, the tapedar gave me a fresh statement which too is submitted. In the case of some people the tapedar recovers the assessment twice over.

The supervising tapedar.

1. He gets an annuity from each zamindar.

2. He gets some money on each application which comes to him for report.

3. He is given a fixed sum from each tapedar's lapo.

4. All payments made to the tapedar, excepting the lapo, are divided between him and the tapadar in equal shares.

5. He also gets a bag or two of grain from each zamindar at the batai, besides firewood, grass, etc.

6. He levies from each zamindar a rupee or two each for his cook and kotar.

7. Zamindars who make these money presents get no favour from the supervising tapedar or the tapedar. They make them to avoid the troubles which are otherwise created for them.

Unless the following suggestions are adopted matters will not improve. Out of their exactions the tapedar, the supervising tapedar and the darogha make presents to munshis of their immediate superiors and higher officers so that if they are displeased with any zamindar, their immediate superiors are displeased with him. The displeasure of the taluka official also means the displeasure of the higher officials. The taluka official will first start the game by complaining of a particular zamindar to the divisional officer. The personal munshi of a divisional officer will support the taluka official so that the divisional officer will be convinced of the truth of the taluka officials' complaint. This means the ruin of the zamindar concerned. The displeasure of the divisional officer means the displeasure of the Commissioner, of the Chief Engineer or of the Deputy Inspector General of Police. It is suggested that in such cases the divisional officer should inquire into matters through a committee such as has been referred to above, and that a complaint filed by an official against a zamindar or hari should be heard by a European magistrate and if the committee is satisfied that the complaint is false the accused should be defended by the Public Prosecutor.

How to prevent rasai, lapo, etc.

In each taluka there should be a committee of zamindars. This committee should be empowered by Government to take evidence on oath and to perform the following duties:

1. To inquire into all cases of official oppression, bribery, etc., which may come to its notice whether on complaint or otherwise and to report the erring official to the officer who can appoint and dismiss him.

The official should then be suspended and the matter inquired into departmentally. His superior officer may sit as a member or chairman on the taluka committee when the inquiry is proceeding before it. He should be punished severely if after hearing the defence the committee considers that he is guilty.

2. Bills of assessment should be furnished to zamindars on completion of the number shumari in December and the receipts taken from them should be forwarded to the committee. If thereafter any tapedar makes mischief the committee should inquire into the matter and report the result to the Mukhtiarkar. If the Mukhtiarkar's verdict is different from that of the committee the matter should be inquired into by the Assistant Collector in conjunction with the committee.

3. Tapedars should, before the cultivation season, give intimation to zamindars of their survey numbers liable to fallow assessment in the next year and the receipts taken from them should be forwarded to the committee. The committee should after inquiries draw up a list of those numbers for the non-cultivation of which the zamindar, was not responsible. This list should be approved by the Assistant Collector after careful investigation.

4. Lists of all numbers of doubtful mode of irrigation should be forwarded to the committee by the mukhtiarkar immediately on their receipt. The committee will examine the cases and record the results of its examination in the lists. In cases in which the mukhtiarkar does not agree with the conclusions of the committee the decision will lie with the Assistant Collector.

5. Tapedars should inform the committee in the month of January of the boundary marks on each deh which are out of repair and which must be repaired under the group system. The marks which appear to the committee to be in repair or which are repaired at the instance of the committee should be let alone, while the repairs to the remaining ones should be carried out by a contractor under the orders of the committee and not by a contractor under the orders of the officials.

6. Extracts from registered deeds are no doubt forwarded for entry in the record of rights; but the tapedars do not make the necessary entries in the record until they get their fees. Such extracts should in future be forwarded to the committee through the mukhtiarkar. The committee will then write to the tapedars concerned through the mukhtiarkar to make the changes. All changes in the record must be made after due inquiry and such an important work as the writing of the record should not be entrusted to the tapedars.

7. The usufruct of trees and grazing in unoccupied numbers is under the circulars leased to the holder of adjacent lands at fixed rates. This needs no change. If however there is no usufruct or grazing in any year on account of want of rain, the payment should be assessed on the recommendations of the committee. In the event of the mukhtiarkar disagreeing with the committee the matter should be decided by the Assistant Collector.

8. All applications for land grants should in the first instance be made to the committee. The committee will register these applications and then pass them on to the mukhtiarkar. The mukhtiarkar will get particulars from the tapedars and return the applications together with the particulars to the committee. The committee will then submit the applications to the officer concerned who will dispose of them in consultation with the committee at a kacheri. In matters of land grant zamindars need to go to the P. W. D. in connection with the supply of water. This should be done away with and a condition inserted in the kabulyat that the land will be liable to payment even if it did not receive water-supply. The kabulyats and malkano should be taken from the zamindars in the presence of the committee to spare them the fees which they otherwise will pay to the settlement munshi and the munshis of the divisional officer.

9. Tapedars should recover assesments on fixed dates, in the presence of the committee at headquarters and the receipt books of the zamindars should be countersigned by the chairman or other member of the committee.

10. Lists of voters for local board and council elections prepared by the tapedars should be verified by the committee before they are submitted to the mukhtiarkar as in the preparation of these lists underhand methods are resorted to.

11. Tapedars and daroghas every now and then trouble zamindars in connection with waste of water. Zamindars have suffered great losses thereby. It is absolutely necessary for zamindars and haris to grow some grass to be cut when green for the feed of their plough animals. This they grow either on their own lands or on the adjacent Government waste. Government should therefore charge nothing or not more then 4 annas per acre on such cultivation. Tapedars should furnish to the committee not later than June all particulars regarding land in which grass is grown for draught animals. No such reports should be made after June when there have been rains and pancho water of fields has been let off. If no such cultivation is allowed except under permission to be obtained previously, this will give rise to corruption and delay. What should be done therefore is that every zamindar should have a certain area fixed for the cultivation of grass, having regard to the number of animals he has. A zamindar who has 100 acres under cultivation will require about 20 acres for grass. If he exceeds this latter figure he will pay regular assesment.

12. Zamindars pay tapedars a rupee per number when they want particulars regarding any numbers. To save zamindars this impost it is suggested that all survey maps and particulars regarding the area held by each occupant should be kept by the committee.

13. There is no justice in the grant of remissions. The mukhtiarkars are very strict in recommending remissions owing to fear. They refuse remissions even in deserving cases. Again a zamindar who is not a time-server gets no justice. The assessors dare not give their independent opinion regarding danabandi. It is suggested that the assessors should be from among the members of the committee, and should the Mukhtiarkar act unfairly in the matter of danabandi etc. the case should be decided by the Assistant Collector in consultation with the committee.

14. The committee should be informed of the amount of takavi sanctioned for the taluka. The committee will receive applications for takavi up to the amount sanctioned and forward them to the mukhtiarkar. The tapedars will furnish to the committee whatever particulars it may want. The mukhtiarkar will then sanction applications in conjunction with the committee on a day to be fixed by him with reference to the convenience of the committee. Until this procedure is adopted the percentages paid on the takavi will not cease. Repayments of takavi should be made to the tapedar in the presence of the committee when recoveries of land revenue are made.

15. The income tax officer should sit with the committee when assessing zamindars to the income-tax, cases in which they differ being referred to the Assistant Collector.

16. When an unassessed number has been granted to any man the tapedar does not readily break it into small numbers until he is paid a fee equal to half the malkano. Care should therefore be taken to see that the tapedar sub-divides the land and takes the kabulyat and malkano from the person concerned before the cultivation season begins. Until the work is completed, weekly statements of measurement work done should be submitted to the committee with an explanation of the delay.

17. Haris should freely be permitted to build huts for themselves near their lands in the interest of their cultivation.

18. Applications for the grant of barani and itfaq sailab lands should be received by the committee. The committee should note on the application whether the request is genuine or not. The information required from the records of the village should be supplied to the committee by the tapedar. All such applications should then be disposed of by the mukhtiarkar in the presence of the committee on the dates previously fixed by him in consultation with the committee.

19. Applications by zamindars and haris should be made through the committee and those that are recommended by the committee should be sanctioned.

20. A report made by a tapedar or other official against a zamindar or hari should be referred to the committee for inquiry. If the mukhtiarkar's conclusions differ from those of the committee, the matter should be decided by the Assistant Collector.

21. To the possible objection of Government that no one will be found to serve as tapedar etc., on such conditions the reply is that the committee will undertake to make proper arrangements.

The increase of pay will not lead to the stoppage of lapo, rasai, etc. The last revision, which raised the pay of the tapedar from Rs. 15—20 to Rs. 20—25 and that of the supervising tapedar from Rs. 20—25 to Rs. 30—35 plus an allowance of Rs. 10 was intended to enable these officials to live on their pay without taking lapo etc. It has failed of its purpose. Lapo, rasai etc., have increased rather then decreased.

Similarly the revisions of the pay of the munshis, daroghas etc., have produced no effect. Habits die hard; unless committees of zamindars watch the officials no improvement can be expected.

It might be argued that committees of zamindars cannot safely be entrusted with so many duties. It must be taken for granted that those who are oppressed can have no protection from oppression until they are given some control over their oppressors. Nothing short of this will produce the desired result. I remember Government passing orders at the instance of the late Sirdar Mahomed Yakub Khan that the mukhtiarkar in whose charge there were compaints of lapo and rasai would be dismissed. Nothing came out of these orders in spite of their admitted stringency. Mr. Lucas' circular of 1914 has on the contrary made matters worse. Such efforts are bound to prove abortive. I submit the representation dated 29th November 1914 which I made to the Collector of this district on the circular of Mr. Lucas. It will be seen that my suggestion was that until some effective remedy was found out in consultation with the zamindars the circular in question would produce no effect. I made a similar representation to Mr. Thomas, Collector of Hyderabad, when he was holding a durbar for discussion of matters of public interest; but nothing came out of it. Indeed complaints have been made from time to time but in vain and the evils have taken deeper roots then before. The reason is that in Sind all subordinate officials including taluka officers are generally of the type indicated above. The munshis of the higher officers are in no way better.

Moreover officials in Sind are closely connected with one another by ties of relationship, etc. Several tapedars and other subordinates are near relations of Deputy Collectors and Engineers etc. Besides this, subordinate officials take great care to please their superiors. The head of the taluka, even if he is an impartial officer, which is a rare occurence, supports his subordinates either because of relationships or because of recommendations from friends or because of the exertions made by the subordinates to please him. The great majority of mukhtiarkars and others who are of the type indicated above naturally stand by their subordinates. No one dare complain against an official to the displeasure of the mukhtiarkar. The trouble is accentuated by the fact that the higher officers simply echo what the taluka officers say. If a man is likely to expose the misdeeds of subordinate officials to their superiors, he is already reported to the latter as a very troublesome man so that he will not have any access to them. How then can officers acquaint themselves with the grievances of the people? We have cried in vain in newspapers and otherwise that officers should get into close touch with us. They never inquire into our condition even when we of our own accord call on them. Such being the case subordinate officials, as is only natural, fearlessly harass us. I can say that subordinate officials including mukhtiarkars sometimes commit extremely cruel deeds. European officers seem to think that undue severity towards

subordinates will re-act unfavourably on the administration. It is a pity that European officers should entertain this idea. The foundations of British rule are too deep-laid to receive injury from the course suggested above. On the contrary British rule will receive an accession of strength by the removal of the blot which the misdeeds of the subordinates constitute on the otherwise good Government of the country. It is certainly a matter for regret that there is nobody to hold subordinate officials accountable for their misdeeds and that they ply their nefarious trade without check.

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No one dare complain against any subordinate official. If he did he would incur the displeasure of all including the daftardar and his munshis. This has practically made us, zamindars, slaves of officials. Zamindars who are disposed to expose subordinate officials do not get the support of their less independent brethren. Under these circumstances, no matter what rules Government make and to what extent the pay and allowances of subordinates are revised, there will be no improvement. Are the pay and allowances of the mukhtiarkar small? Why does he then resort to ways to which his subordinates resort. The fact is all officials in concert with one another fearlessly rob people as though there was nobody to take them to task. They even go so far as to misappropriate Government moneys. On clearance and other contracts on an average 50% goes to waste. Is that not Government property? The local board revenue they regard as their legacy. Half the money realised at fairs is pocketed by them. Local Board gardens being in their keeping are as it were a legitimate source of revenue to them. Malhis kept for looking after roads get their pay from the local boards but do the private work of officials. Similar frauds are committed in respect of receipts from pounds. Unless therefore zamindars are appointed to keep watch on them, matters will not improve. At present zamindars are helpless. They are at the mercy of officials. When they have been given control over them they will have the courage to root out evils. This arrangement has the additional advantage of protecting Government property as it is not possible for both zamindars and officials to combine and defraud Government. Zamindars' committees are therefore the best agency for eradicating the evils complained of. What is of special importance, however, is that care should be taken to have on the committees independent men and not men recommended by the mukhtiarkars. This can be done by election. Each tapa should have the right of electing not more than two members or one member at least to the committee. The elections should be conducted on the same lines as the local board elections. Or the members elected to the local board should be recognised as members of the zamindars' committees. There should be no nominated members on zamindars' committees. The system of nomination will lead to the appointment of men of the type of which Bench Magistrates are, men who will do more harm then good. If you want good Magistrates for Benches of Magistrates, selections should be made on the recommendations of zamindars' committees. Moreover these Benches should not be under the control of the head munshi or the mukhtiarkar. They should first be invested with the powers of the 3rd class Magistrate. The conferment of further powers should be dependent upon the efficiency of each Bench. Each zamindar's committee should be allowed a munshi and two peons, to be appointed by it. Their service will be pensionable and they will be eligible for transfer to the revenue department. The committee will also be given a fixed allowance for contingencies and stamps. The scheme will no doubt entail some expenditure; but as it will curtail the work of the tapedars, the supervising tapedars and the taluka office, the latter establishments can safely be reduced. In fact no inconvenience will be felt by taking off one supervising tapedar, one tapedar and one taluka office munshi. The zamindars' committee for each taluka can select men to serve on the dispensary committee, the sanitary committee, and the school board committee, superseding the present system under which men who are appointed to serve on these committees are men who act as the agents of subordinate officials, who do not perform their legitimate duties and who never bother themselves about official corruption.

The Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department contracts involve some waste of public money. The larger contractors sublet their contracts to the smaller contractors on a profit of 25 per cent on the contract. Of the remaining 75% payments are made to the Public Works Departments officials as follows:—

The daroga 1 per cent; the sub overseer and overseer 2 per cent; the sub-divisional officers' munshi 1 per cent; the sub-divisional officer 5 per cent; presents and rasai 1 per cent. The Executive Engineer's office 5%.

When these payments have been made 60% will remain over. Of this 50% is paid to the jamadar of excavators and 5% is spent in the pay of the establishment. The contractor will have 50% left for carrying out the work in such a way as to make a profit for himself. Under these circumstances zamindars are unwilling to take up clearance contracts.

2. Breaches are generally closed by zamindars. No P. W. D. official attends to them. The bills of cost, submitted by zamindars, are either not paid with a view to save the reputation of the official who repaired the bunds or are paid in part only, the remaining money being misappropriated by the officials themselves. Zamindars acquiese in these proceedings because they know that they are at the mercy of the officials.

3. The daroghas levy 1 to 5 rupees as lapo on each karia. They also get money presents from cattle owners for allowing their cattle to graze on canal banks, to water at canals and to go along canal banks. These money presents are apart from presents of butter, milk, etc etc. The muccudums will take cattle to the pound no matter where he finds them. They will get a fee of one anna per head of cattle from the pound munshi. The pound munshi will pocket the fine and the feeding charge in the case of animals released by their owners; and the feeding charge only in the case of those that are not so released. The payment of an anna on every animal brought to the pound makes a muccadum more enthusiastic then he should be in the interest of the cattle owners in looking after canal banks. The muccadum has other sources of income too. He levies a lapo of 4 annas per karia besides some perquisites from cattle owners. Over and above these exactions zamindars have to give to the P. W. D. officials quantities of ears of corn at the harvest and grain at the batai. The displeasure of the darogha means the displeasure of the Executive Engineer with all its evil consequences. The legitimate work of the muccadum and beldar viz., the conservancy of canals and their banks is looked after by zamindars. They are engaged in making rasai, in collecting their dues from cattle owners and in taking to the pound the cattle of those who do not accommodate them.

Sugyestions for the removal of the above evils.

1. The committee referred to above, should be empowered to inquire into the misdeeds of subordinate officials and make their reports. The officials concerned should be suspended on these reports, and the matter disposed of in the manner indicated above.

2. Clearance contracts should be given out by the above said committees. Payments thereon should also be made by them. Clearance measurements should be taken by an overseer from another sub-divlsion, a member of the committee being associated with him. In case of disagreement, the committee should report the matter to the Executive Engineer who should go into the case jointly with the committee. In the case of buildings and bridges also the completion certificate should be signed by the sub-divisional officer and a member of the committee. In case of disagreement the matter should be decided by the Executive Engineer assisted by the committee.

3. The daroghas, muccadums, and beldars who are on the temporary establishment should be apppointed in consultation with the committee. They should be liable to suspensions on the reports of the committee.

4. All matters relating to the construction of masonry bridges over karias, to the narrowing or closing of the mouth of a karia, to the opening of new karias etc., should be disposed of by the Executive Engineer in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

5. The closing of breaches and the claiming of money therefor should be left in the charge of the committee.

6. Estimates for clearance and other works should be submitted by the overseer to the committee. The committee will forward these to the Executive Engineer, making therein such modifications (if any) as seem to it proper. In case the Executive Engineer differs from the recommendations of the committee, he should decide the matter on the spot in conjunction with the committee.

7. There is a good deal of corruption in the matter of regulating the flood-gates of Government canals. Should the committee report any matter to the Executive Engineer by wire, immediate action should be taken. For this purpose the canal wire should be placed at the disposal of the committee.

8. There is corruption also in regulating rotation of water supply. All arrangements relating to rotation should be made by the committee.

9. Contracts for the fruit of trees on canal banks should be given by the committee.

10. The committee should every year be invited to make its suggestions for improving canals and water supply and steps should be taken to give effect to its recommendation.

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Lastly I must state the circumstances of my dismissal to avoid an unfavourable impression being created by my evidence.

I could not meet the rasai, etc., in the revenue department. I got myself transferred on the same pay to the police department where by my industry I rose to be a second grade sub-inspector in a short time. I was recommended for the post of Inspector. I was also recommended at my request for the post of mukhtiarkar by the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate. As however my ill-luck would have it while I was eagerly looking forward to my appointment as a mukhtiarkar, Mr. Ommanney who had been appointed District Superintendent of Police to my district got annoyed with me over rasai and shikar and reduced me from the 80 rupee grade of sub-inspector to the 30 rupee grade of head constable on the ground that I had delayed the execution of warrants issued against some pattern brick layers on the complaint of Udharam zamindar, although he was aware that I had accompanied him to Katiar to make arrangements for his shikar. I went and told Mr. Mules, the District Magistrate, all about Mr. Ommanney's displeasure over shikar. The District Magistrate sent for him and took down his statement and mine, made inquiries and finding that I was free from blame upset the order of reduction. Being afraid of Mr. Ommanney however I proceeded on furlough. On the expiry of my leave, Mr. Ommanney being in the Hyderabad District still, I got myself transferred to the Thar and Parkar District. There a second class magistrate was reduced on my report. I was then transferred to Sanghar, where the mukhtiarkar was Mr. Mouzaldin and the head munshi a brother-in-law of the second class magistrate referred to above. The head munshi took opportunity to prejudice the mukhtiarkar against me. They both got complaints made against me. One of these complaints was tried by Mr. Beyts who acquitted me. The other complaints were forwarded by the District Magistrate to Mr. Priestly the District Superintendent of Police who reported that they were all false. About that time to my misfortune I told Mr. Mahmud Shah, the Deputy Superintendent, in confidence that the rasai for Mr. Priestly's camp at Sanghar had cost Rs. 1,200. Mr. Mahmud Shah went and reported the matter to Mr. Priestly. Mr. Priestly's attitude towards me was now so completely changed that he dismissed me on the complaints which he had reported to the District Magistrate to be groundless. Thus was gone my service of 23 years.

I show certificates testifying to the good work done by me in the Revenue and Police Departments. Since my dismissal from the service, I have been selected as joint secretary to the Zamindars' Association, Tando. Official oppression has been pressing heavily on us. It is hoped that the Rasai Committee will suggest ways for the removal of our grievances.

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Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj

on 24 February, 2020

APPENDIX TO MR. HEY'S EVIDENCE AT PAGES 1-12 ANTE.

Copy of letter No. 4749 of the 6th July 1918 from the Collector of Hyderabad.

With reference to your letter No. 52, dated the 6th May 1918, I have the honour to give below the aggregate numbers of Amils, other Hindus and Mahomedans in the Subordinate Revenue Establishment of the Hyderabad district:—

Amils.	Other Hindus.	Mussalmans.	Total.
82	3	40	125

2. A statement showing the number of zamindars paying assessment according to the prescribed classes is attached.

Statement showing the number of zamindars paying assessment under and above Rs. 1,000, etc.

Name of taluka.	No. of zamindars paying assessment				Approximate proportion of Hindu and Mahomedan zamindars.
	Under Rs. 1,000.	Over Rs. 1,000 and under Rs. 5,000.	Over Rs. 5,000 and under Rs. 10,000.	Over Rs. 10,000.	
Guni	1,456	69	3	...	1 : 4
Badin	3,913	51	...	...	1 : 6
Tando Bago	1,930	43	4	1*	1 : 5
Dero Mohbat ...	2,495	9	...	...	1 : 37
Hyderabad	4,470	4	...	...	1 : 3
Hala	1,244	13	3	1	1 : 7
Tando Allahyar ...	4,168	12	...	...	1 : 4

* Refers to Mir Ghulam Mahomed Khan, jagirdar, taluka Tando Bago, assessable value of whose jagir is Rs. 21,011.